WHAT IF BOUDICCA HAD DEFEATED THE ROMANS?

THE BIRTH OF DISNEYLAND

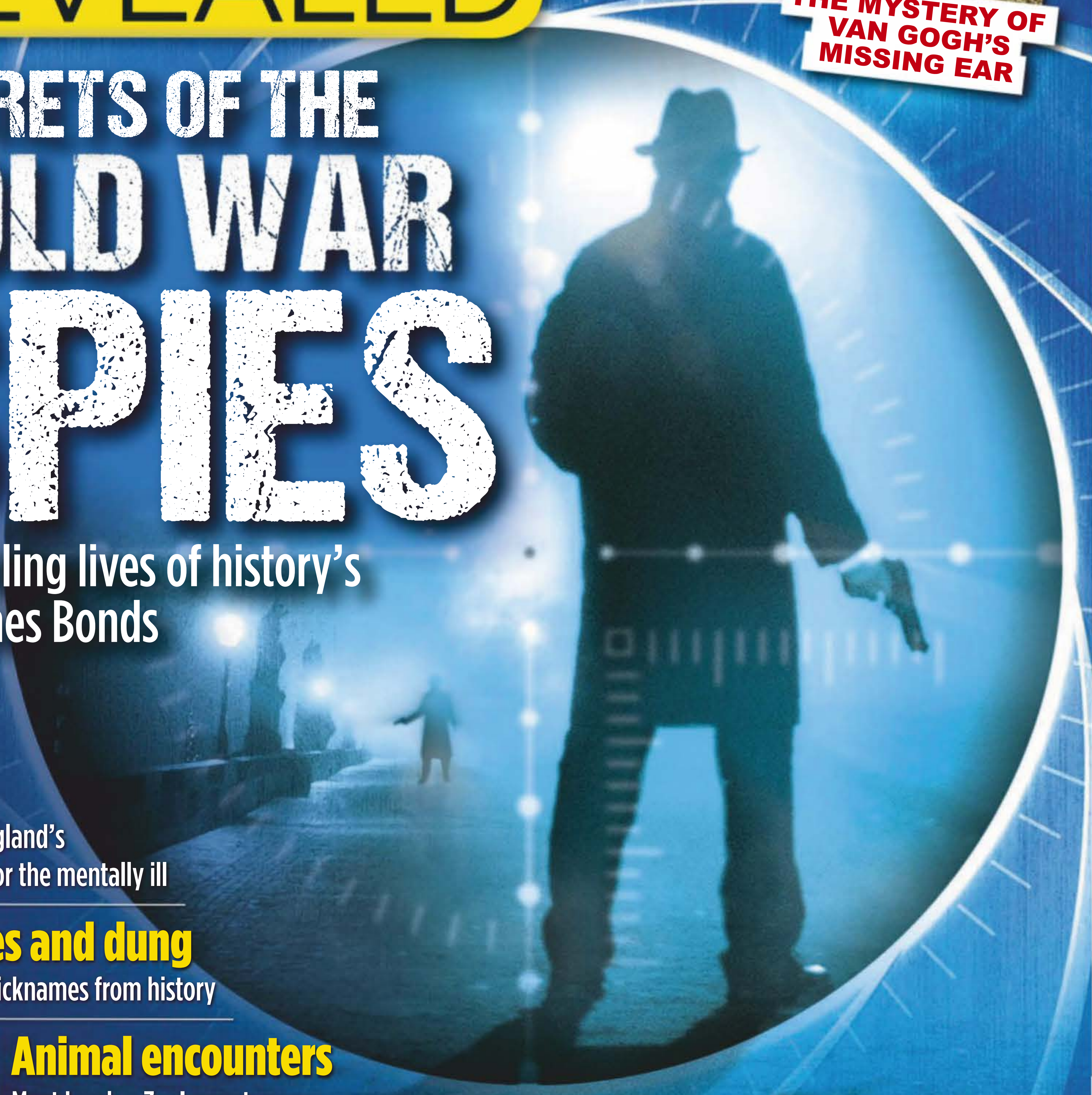
BBC

HISTORY REVEALED

THE MYSTERY OF VAN GOGH'S MISSING EAR

SECRETS OF THE COLD WAR SPIES

The thrilling lives of history's real James Bonds



Bedlam

Step inside England's first hospital for the mentally ill

Cabbages and dung

Bizarre royal nicknames from history

Animal encounters

Meet London Zoo's most famous residents

PLUS Pilgrimage of Grace The northern uprising against Henry VIII

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WELCOME APRIL 2020

What made CIA agent Aldrich Ames spy on his own country, risking being caught and jailed as a traitor?

This month sees everyone's favourite MI6 agent return to the big screen in what will be the 25th James Bond film. Whether you're a Bond fan or not, it's hard not to be intrigued by the murky world of espionage, particularly activities that took place at the **height of 20th-century intelligence gathering: the Cold War**. This month's cover feature explores how spies were recruited, the associated dangers, and some of the gadgets and gizmos used on the job – from shoe bugs to poison-injecting umbrellas. Find out more from page 26.

We'll also be delving into another mystery from history, in the shape of the **troubled artist Vincent van Gogh** trying to get to the bottom of why he cut off his own ear (*p66*), and we discuss what might have happened **had Boudicca driven the Romans from England** in AD 60/61 (*p74*).

Elsewhere in the issue, **don your Mickey Mouse ears and head to Disneyland** to read the story behind Walt Disney's monumental building project – from rapidly spiralling costs to the park's disastrous opening day in July 1955 (*p37*). We'll also be exploring the Haitian Revolution of 1791, which saw thousands of enslaved Africans rise up against French rule in the **most successful slave revolt in modern history** (*p50*), and stepping through the doors of Bethlem Hospital – better known, thanks to a **controversial history, as Bedlam** (*p57*). Finally, we find out the reasons behind some of the curious, and often insulting, nicknames given to rulers over the years (*p47*).

Have a great month!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

Charlotte

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

450
The amount, in pounds, raised per year by Bethlem Hospital through visitor admission fees.

100,000
The number of enslaved Africans involved in the Haiti uprising of 1791.

600
The number of Japanese prints in the collection owned by Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh.

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ON THE COVER: ALAMY X1, ARCANGEL X1, GETTY IMAGES X7, SUE GENT X1, ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

CONTENTS APRIL 2020

FEATURES

26 The Secrets and Lies of Cold War Spies
Glove pistols and shoe bugs: discover the secret world of the real James Bonds

37 Disneyland's Difficult Birth
How Walt Disney's most ambitious project didn't always go according to plan

47 Top 10: Nicknames
From cabbages to dung, we reveal some of history's most curious sobriquets

50 The Haitian Slave Rebellion
The enslaved Africans who rose up against France in 1791 to win their freedom

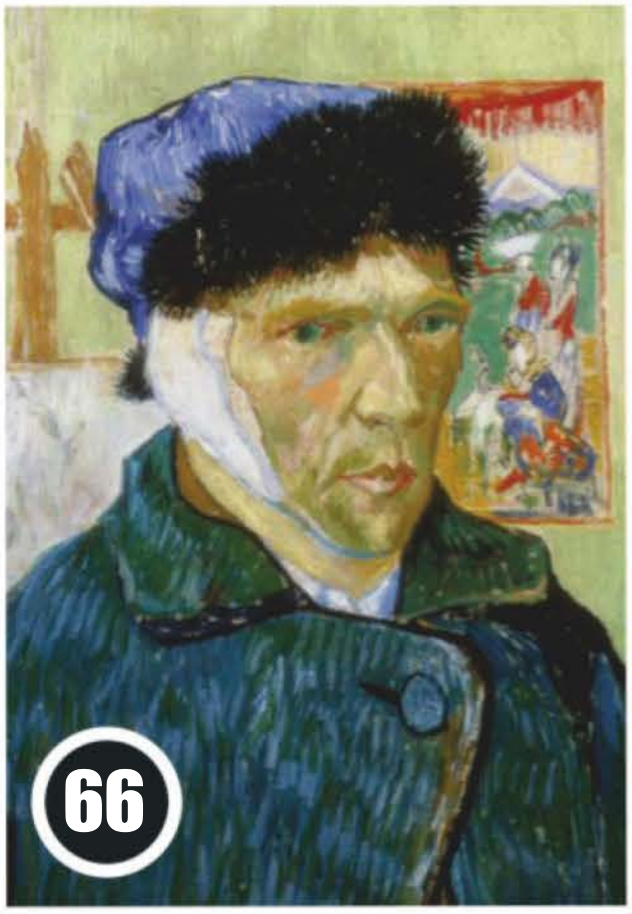
57 Bedlam: 'Palace for Lunatics'
How England's first hospital for the mentally ill earned its dubious reputation

66 The Slow Decline of Vincent van Gogh
What drove the troubled artist to cut off his own ear?

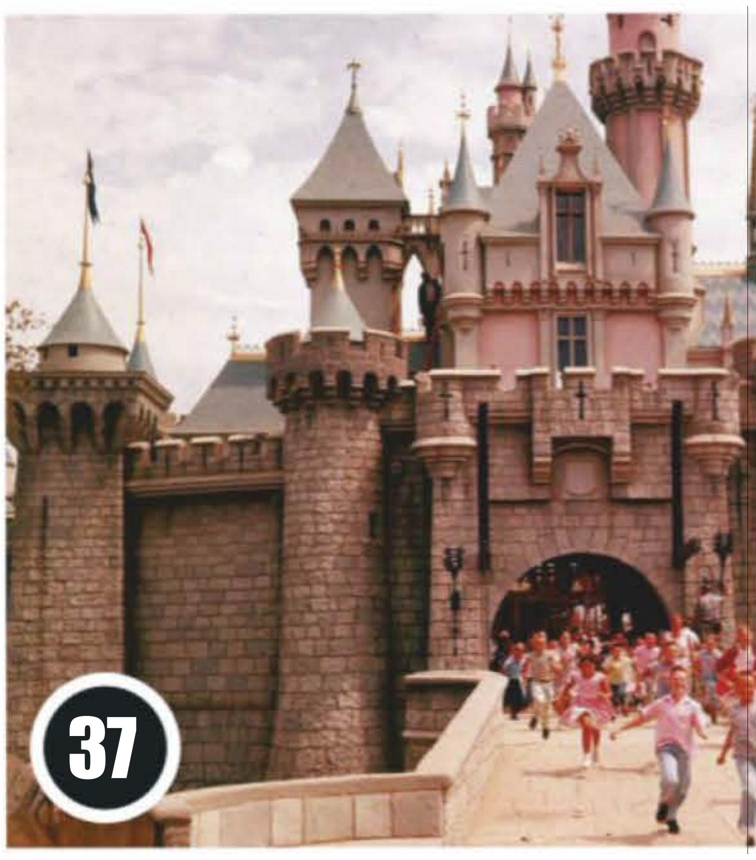
74 What If...
Boudicca had defeated the Romans?

26
COVER FEATURE

▲ Cold War espionage was often a matter of life and death



▲ The story of the last months, and mutilation, of the troubled genius



▲ See the origins and teething troubles of Walt Disney's world-famous park

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24
HISTORY REVEALED
BEATING THE BLACK DEATH
HISTORY REVEALED

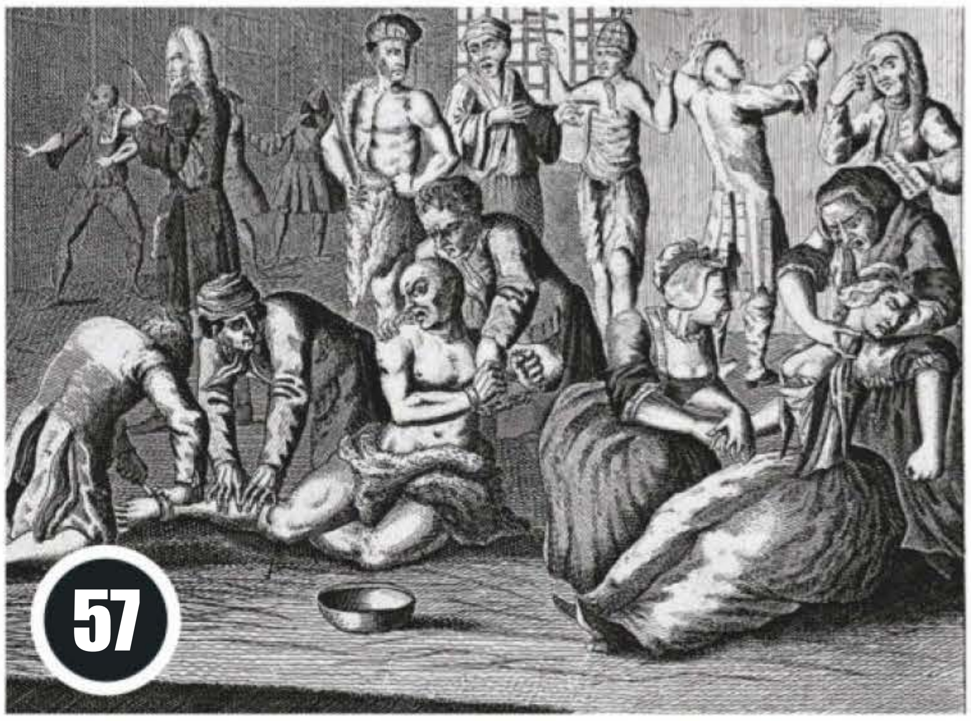
ALAMY X2, GETTY IMAGES X3, SUE GENT X1, WELLCOME COLLECTION X1

50

◀ The slave revolt that led to Haitian independence

47

▲ Bloodaxe, Bluetooth and Boneless: discover some of history's strangest nicknames



57

▲ Step inside Bethlem Hospital – England's first hospital for the mentally ill, with a scandalous history

74

▲ How the warrior queen Boudicca's revolt against Roman rule could have radically changed the course of history

EVERY MONTH

6 Snapshots
An enduring medieval custom

12 What We've Learned This Month
A Pictish warrior with a 'pronounced butt'

15 My Life In History
Meet the Tower of London's Ravenmaster

16 Yesterday's Papers
Flying rabbits and spaghetti trees

18 This Month In... 1828
London Zoo officially opens

20 Year In Focus: 1842
Children leave the coalface and Pilsner creates its first lager

22 In A Nutshell
Everything you need to know about the 1536 Pilgrimage of Grace

77 Ask the Experts
Your historical questions answered

83 TV, Film & Radio
This month's history entertainment

86 What's On
Our top picks of exhibitions and events

88 Britain's Treasures
Explore Quarry Bank, Cheshire

90 Books & Audio
The latest historical releases

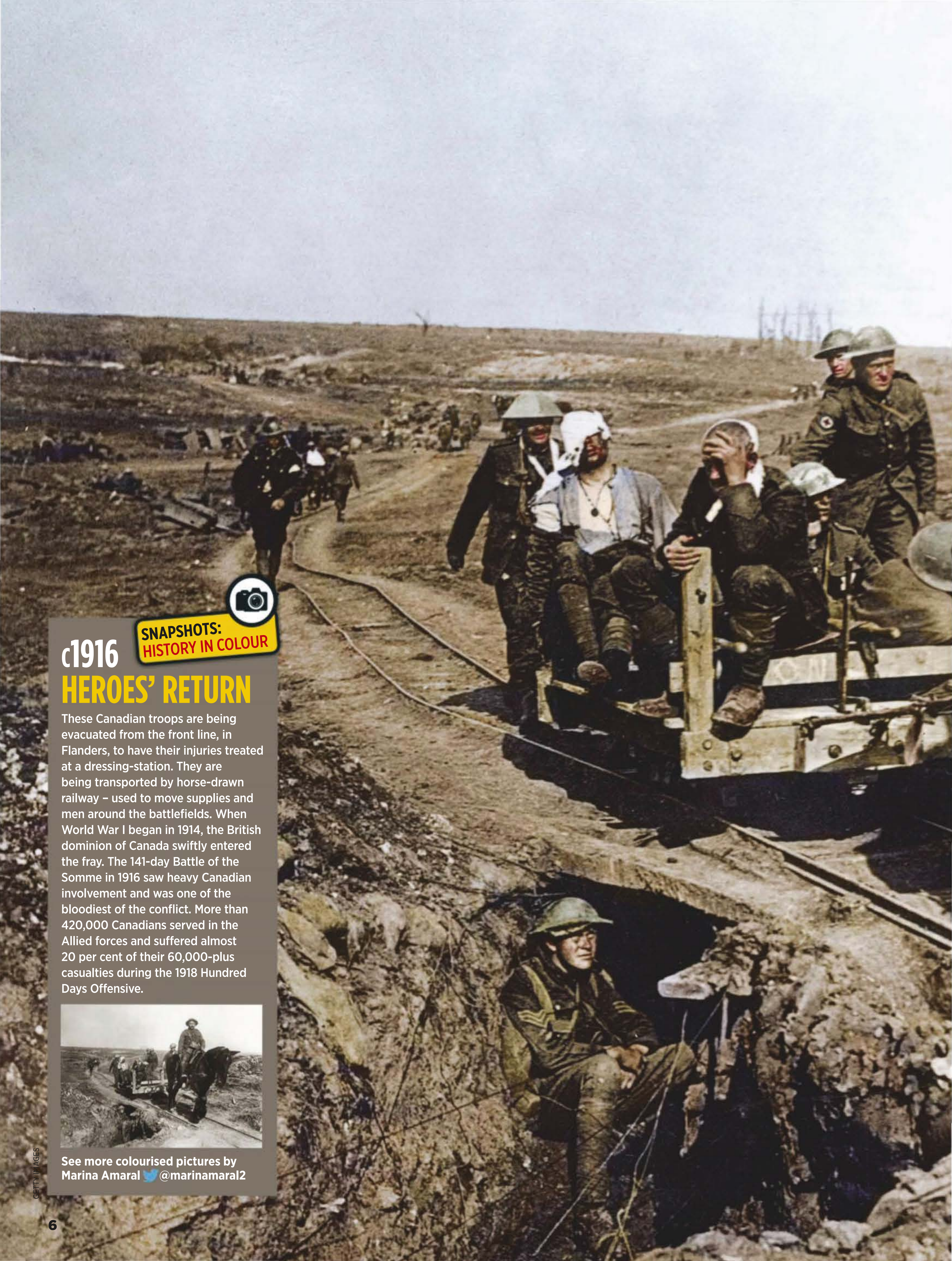
93 Historical Fiction
Sharon Penman shares an excerpt from her new book on the First Crusade

94 Letters

95 Next issue

96 Crossword & Puzzles

98 Photo Finish



SNAPSHOTS: HISTORY IN COLOUR

c1916

HEROES' RETURN

These Canadian troops are being evacuated from the front line, in Flanders, to have their injuries treated at a dressing-station. They are being transported by horse-drawn railway – used to move supplies and men around the battlefields. When World War I began in 1914, the British dominion of Canada swiftly entered the fray. The 141-day Battle of the Somme in 1916 saw heavy Canadian involvement and was one of the bloodiest of the conflict. More than 420,000 Canadians served in the Allied forces and suffered almost 20 per cent of their 60,000-plus casualties during the 1918 Hundred Days Offensive.

See more colourised pictures by Marina Amaral @marinamaral2

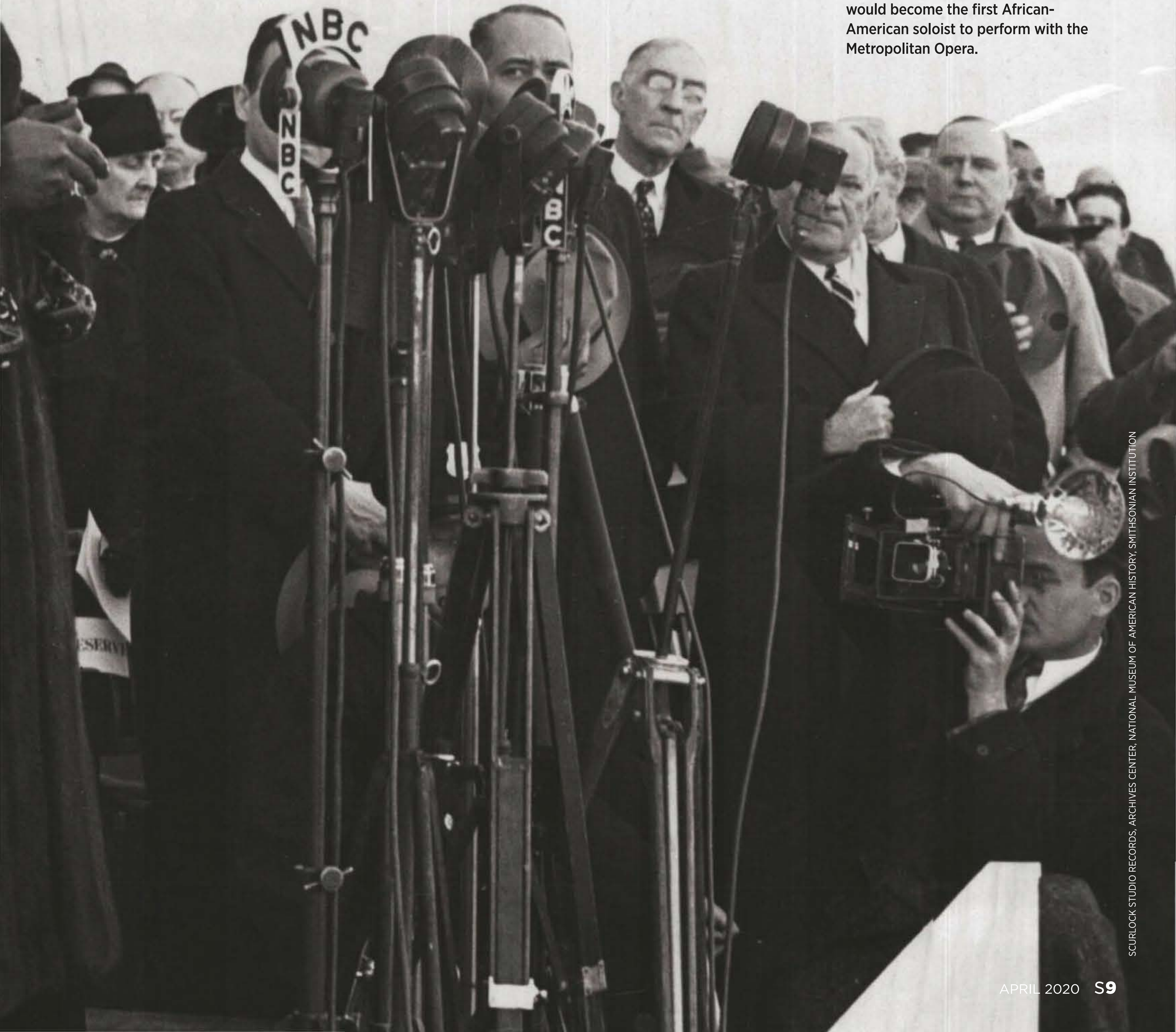
GETTY IMAGES

AAT

1939 SNAPSHOTS

WHO NEEDS A STAGE?

Denied a stage due to her skin colour, African-American contralto Marian Anderson sings in front of the Lincoln Memorial on 9 April 1939, to a crowd of 75,000. Anderson had been asked to perform by Howard University as part of its concert series. Due to her international popularity, a large venue was needed; the ideal place, Constitution Hall, refused her. With the help of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Anderson gave a breathtaking performance that was broadcast on the radio to millions. Sixteen years later, in 1955, Anderson would become the first African-American soloist to perform with the Metropolitan Opera.



SCURLOCK STUDIO RECORDS, ARCHIVES CENTER, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

1927

FEELING FRUITY?

On Hock Tuesday, 'Tuttimen' deliver oranges in the Berkshire town of Hungerford – a custom that continues to this day. Traditionally taking place on the second Tuesday after Easter (the day on which rents were usually payable), the medieval festivities of Hocktide would see the men of the parish bind the women and demand a kiss for their release. The women would then do the same to the men in return for a payment which would go to the parish. The tradition later evolved into the men wandering around the town taking kisses to represent the rents, offering an orange at the end of a pole in exchange.

PRESS ASSOCIATION

THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH....

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

TRAILBLAZING FEMALE NASA MATHEMATICIAN DIES, AGED 101

Tributes have poured in for Katherine Johnson, a former NASA mathematician who died on 24 February. Born in West Virginia in 1916, the mathematics prodigy (*pictured right in 1962 and below, receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015*) helped break down barriers for African Americans and women after graduating from an integrated university. She began working for NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, where she was given the job title of 'computer', responsible for calculating the trajectories of rockets for the early space missions. Johnson's remarkable career was one of the stories explored in the 2016 film *Hidden Figures*, about African American women who helped put US astronauts into space.

£160,000

The fine issued to a Warwickshire family after they ignored warnings from Historic England and inflicted irreparable damage to the remains of a medieval village on their land.

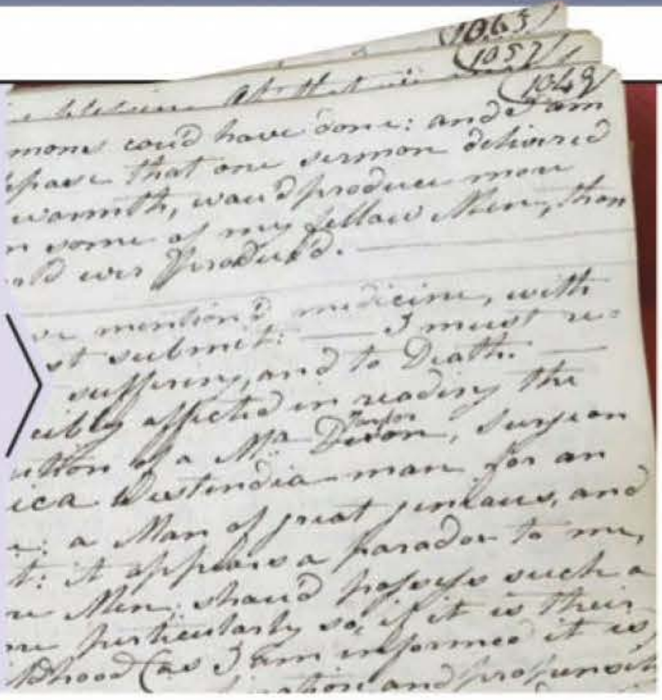
UK'S 2021 CENSUS MAY BE THE LAST

Next year's census could be the last, according to the UK's national statistician. The once a decade questionnaire provides invaluable data about households for local government, but may now be deemed too costly the 2021 census is estimated to cost around £906 million to carry out. Censuses have long been a resource for historians and genealogists as a way of tracking individuals. The first official census in Britain was held in 1801, but the 1841 census was the first to require the details of everyone living at a residence.

Household Questionnaire
Census

200-YEAR-OLD DIARY REVEALS HISTORIC TOLERANCE TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY

A Yorkshire diary has revealed an unexpected perspective on homosexuality 200 years ago. The 1810 diary, written by farmer Michael Tomlinson, provides evidence of tolerance towards homosexuality in Britain much earlier than previously imagined. Inspired by a contemporary sex scandal, Tomlinson refers to same-sex attraction as a “natural” tendency and something that shouldn't be punishable by death. The diary also challenges the idea that homosexuality wasn’t discussed among the lower classes at this time.



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1057

1049

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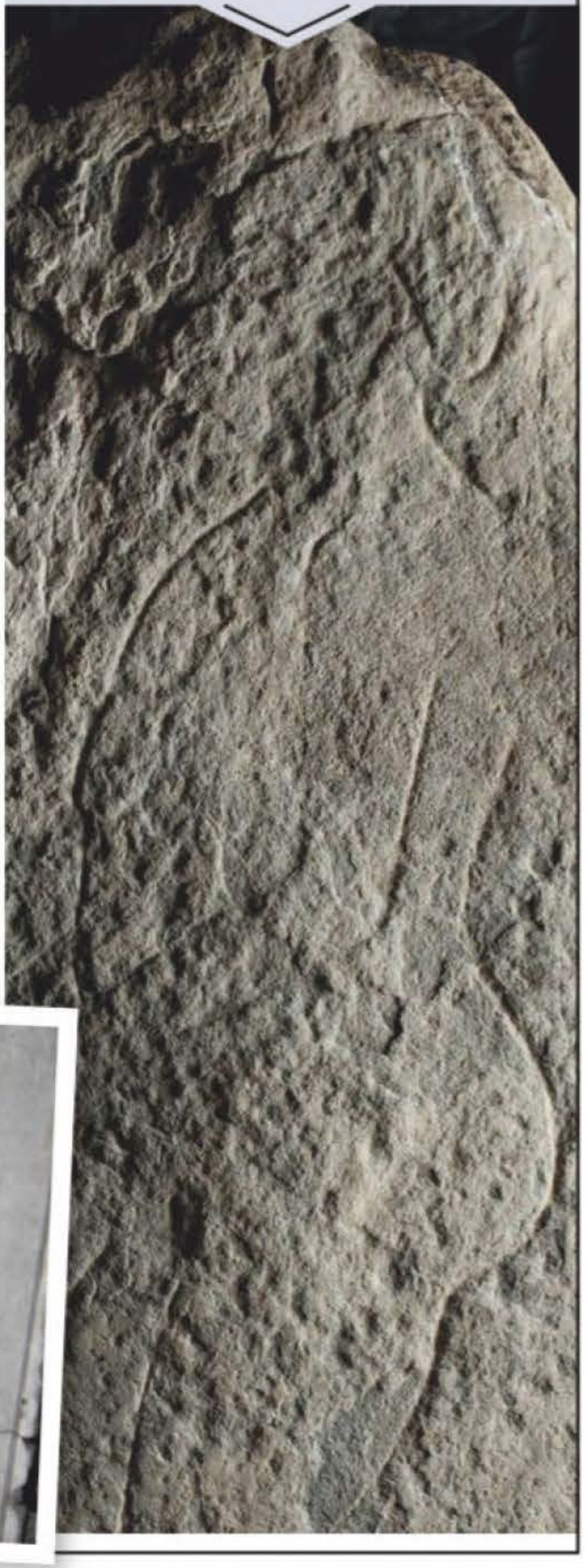
hood (as I am informed it is
ation and profession

IMAGE OF PICTISH WARRIOR WITH ‘PRONOUNCED BUTT’ FOUND IN SCOTLAND

Archaeologists have unearthed and recreated an ancient engraving from a stone monument near Perth, Scotland, depicting a Celtic warrior. The male figure is seen holding a spear and, according to the report of the find, boasts “an elaborate hairstyle” and “pronounced butt”. The two-metre-high monolith was found near a football ground and 3D imaging has allowed the image to be recreated at Aberdeen University. It’s hoped the stone will reveal more about the Pictish warriors who once lived in Scotland.

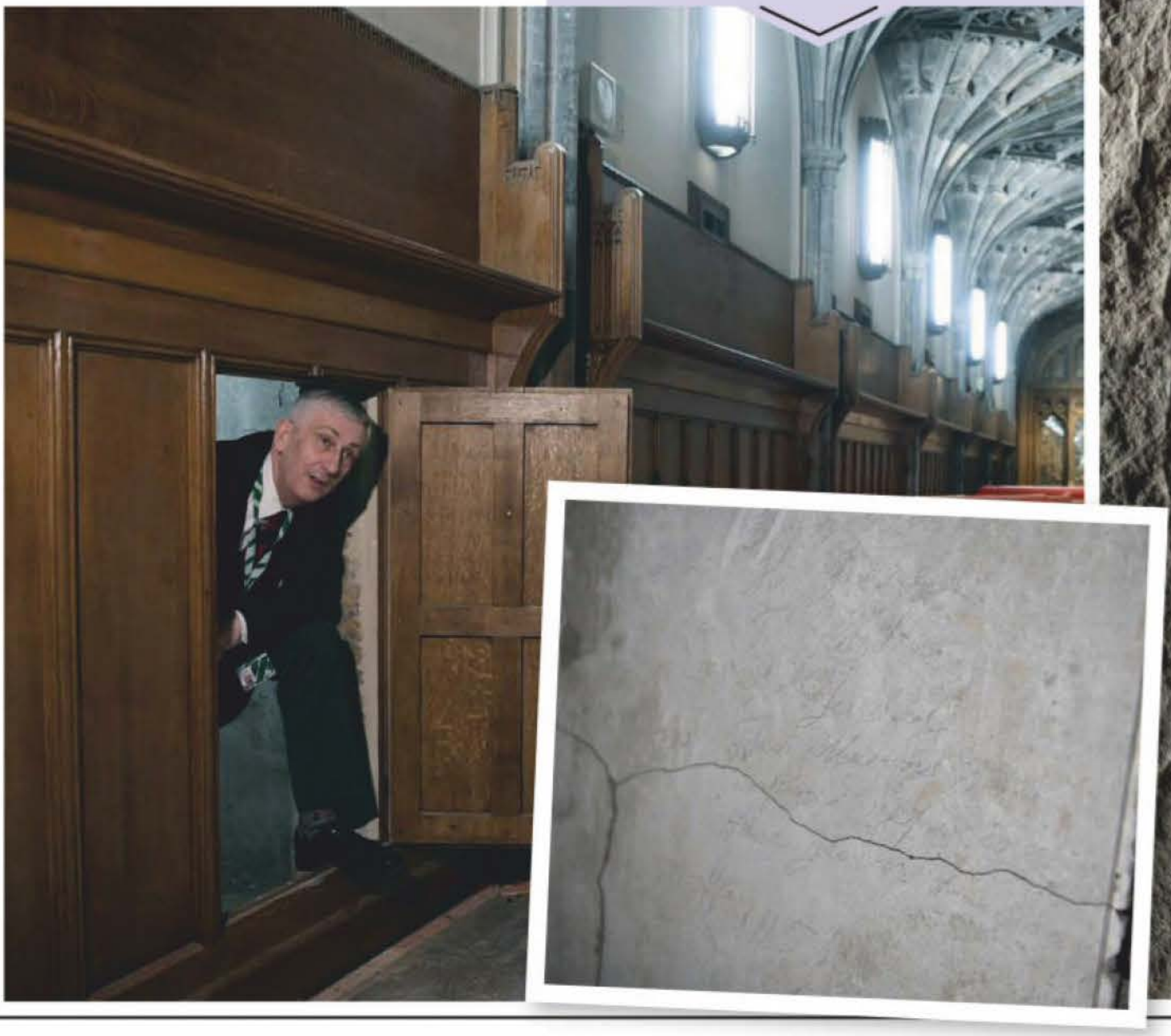


SEARCH UNDERWAY TO FIND 17TH-CENTURY GALLEON LOST IN STORM

A joint search by Spanish and Mexican researchers has been renewed to find a Spanish galleon that sank off the eastern Mexican coast 400 years ago. The *Nuestra Señora del Juncal* was heading from Mexico back to Spain in 1631 when it was lost in a storm. Only 39 of the 300-strong crew survived the disaster. The ship is believed to have been carrying a treasure trove of gold, silver and precious stones to help fund Spain’s war against Dutch independence.

SECRET PASSAGEWAY IN THE HALLS OF WESTMINSTER IS REVEALED

A 360-year-old secret passageway has been discovered during renovations on the House of Commons in London. The passage was created for the coronation of Charles II, in 1660, to allow quick access to the banquet, but has remained hidden since World War II when it was filled in after bombing damage. Graffiti was found on walls inside the chamber (*below*), including some by Chartists – a 19th-century movement for political reform.



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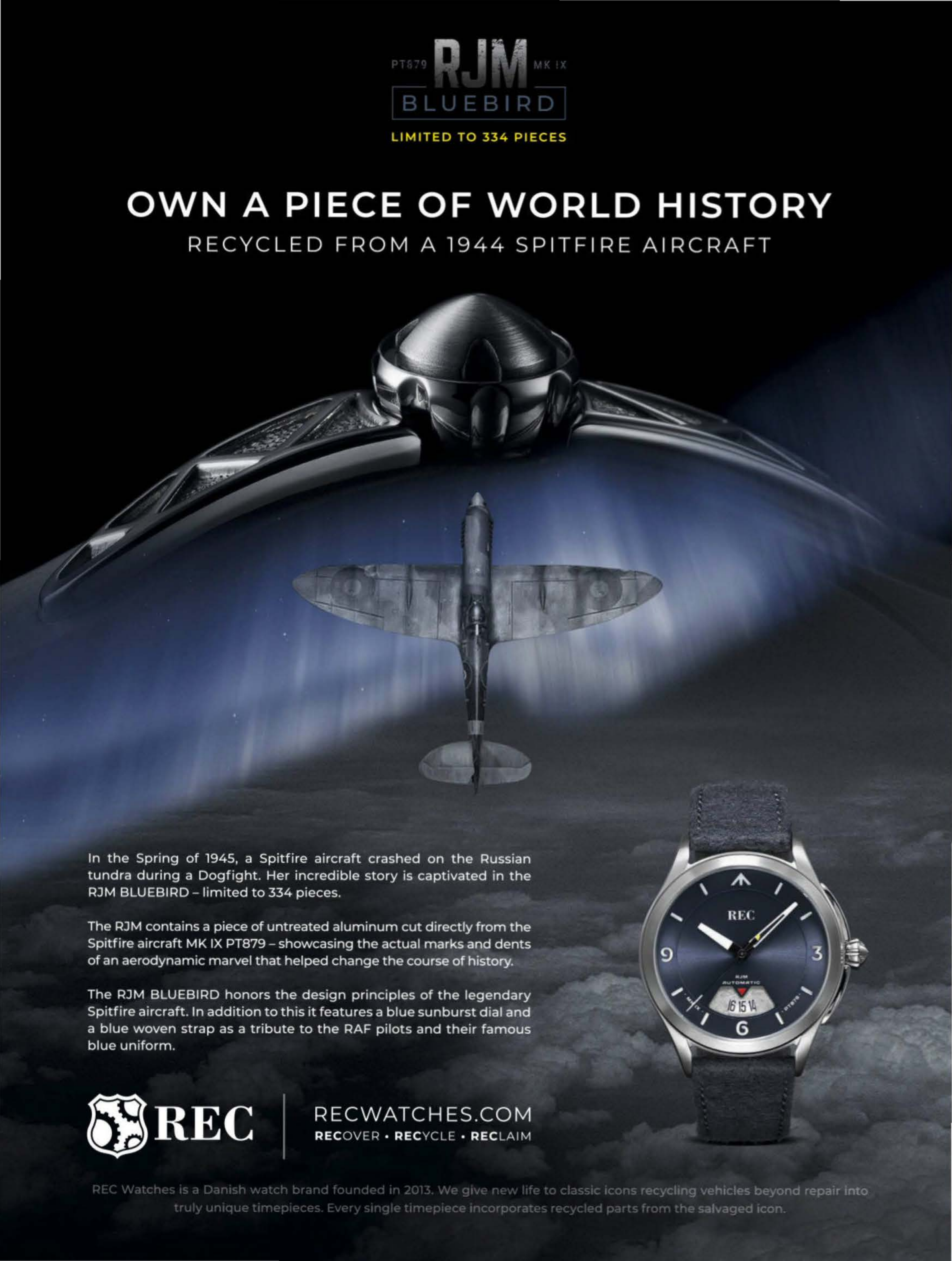

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OWN A PIECE OF WORLD HISTORY

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Ravenmaster at the Tower of London

Chris Skaife

WHY ARE THERE RAVENS AT THE TOWER OF LONDON?

Ravens have been in London for centuries. They are drawn towards dead things and meat, so the bustling Tower would have been an ideal place for them to settle. According to legend, Charles II's royal astronomer, John Flamsteed, who worked in the Tower, complained that the ravens who had made the Tower their home kept getting in the way of his work. He asked the King if he could get rid of them and the King agreed, until someone told him about a legend: "Should the ravens leave, this Tower will crumble, and a great harm will befall yourself and your kingdom." Charles decided to keep six here by royal decree   we have a couple of extra, just in case.

WHAT DOES THE ROLE OF RAVENMASTER ENTAIL?

I'm one of 37 yeoman warders who live and work at the Tower. I'm ex military   to be a yeoman warder you must have completed a minimum of 22 years at the rank of a warrant officer or above. I became the Tower's Ravenmaster in 2011.

When I first came here I was fascinated by the ravens hopping around. The old Ravenmaster, Derrick, took me to the enclosure and put me in there with two huge ravens. One of the birds started moving towards me, looking at me with its beady little eye; I could almost feel its breath on my face. Afterwards Derrick said: "The ravens like you". I discovered later that he was making sure I wasn't scared of the birds – ravens are quite awesome in size and if you show them fear, they will remember that forever. I always tell the public that the ravens picked me.

WHAT ARE THE RAVENS LIKE?

They are some of the most intelligent birds on the planet; each has its own distinct characteristics. They look at me with something like disdain, but I've become close to several of them over the years.

ARE THE RAVENS ALLOWED TO LEAVE?

The ravens are very territorial, so the Tower has become their home and they tend to stay within its confines. They're free to roam wherever they want to inside the grounds and can occasionally be found in the residents' quarters – they are, after all, the Tower's true guardians.

WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST PARTS OF YOUR JOB?

I have to get up early because ravens sleep at night – they are out and about from first to last light. When the Tower's quiet and peaceful, I really enjoy just walking around and letting the birds out. Getting up early in the morning is a double edged sword, however. It can also be quite a busy job – especially when it's raining late at night and the ravens don't want to go back to their enclosure and I'm running around trying to find them in the shadows.

Last year we began a breeding programme – this is the first time in nearly 30 years that we've bred our own ravens for the future, so I'm very proud of that.

The Tower will crumble and the kingdom fall should the ravens leave – or so the legend goes

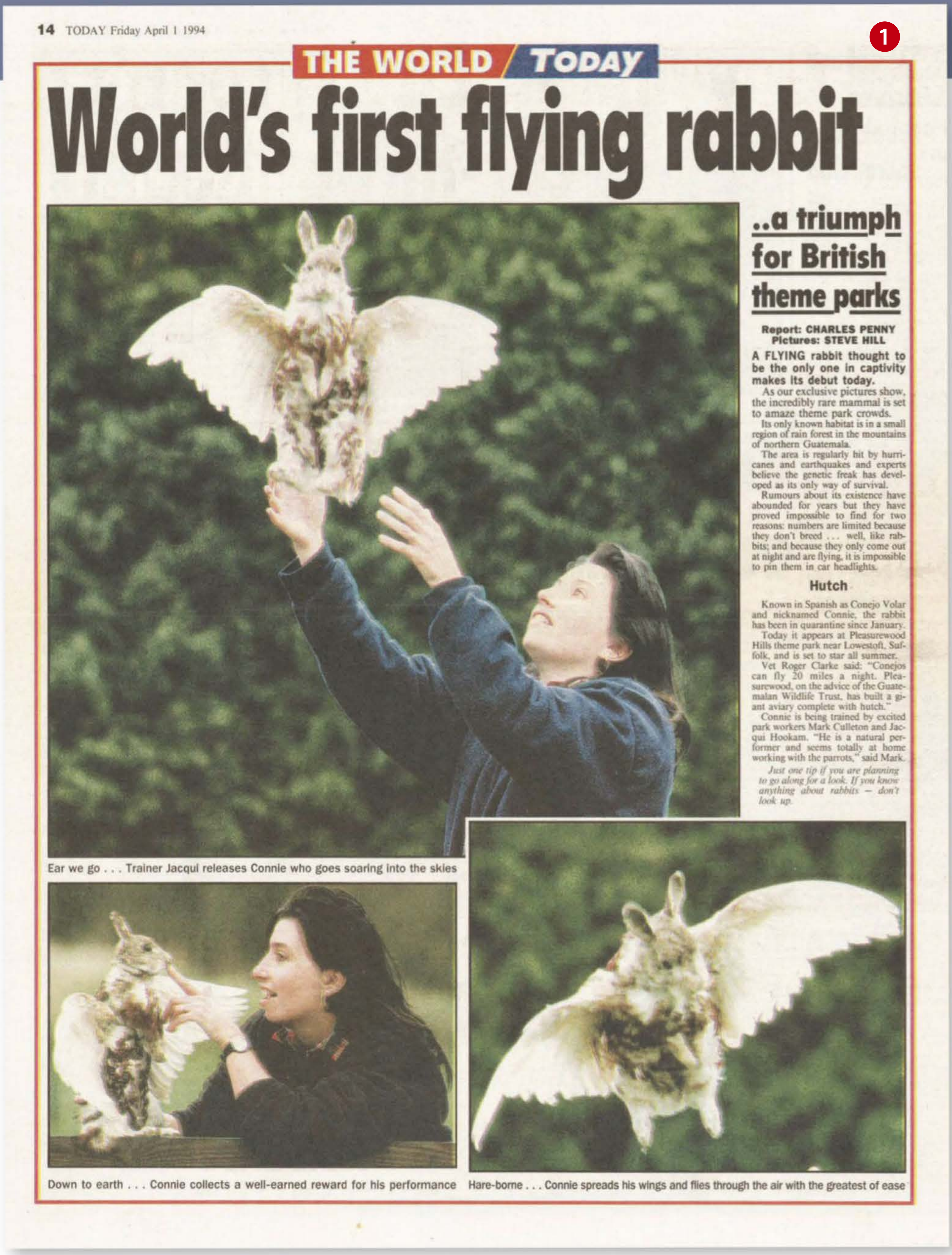
HAVE ANY OF THE RAVENS EVER ESCAPED?

There was an occasion some years ago when one of the ravens escaped. I climbed up the scaffolding of the White Tower to catch him, only for him to fly off again. He was caught by a member of the public in Greenwich seven days later and was confined to the barracks for a while afterwards. ⊙

Chris and the ravens can be found at the Tower of London (*hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london*). Find out about the Ravenmaster himself at *ravenmaster.org*

BBC WORLD SERVICE Chris Skaife discusses his Ravenmaster role on an episode of *Outlook* on the BBC World Service: *bbc.co.uk/programmes/p054f5j2*

HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES X2



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14 TODAY Friday April 1 1994

THE WORLD TODAY

World's first flying rabbit

..a triumph for British theme parks

Report: CHARLES PENNY
Pictures: STEVE HILL

A FLYING rabbit thought to be the only one in captivity makes its debut today.

As our exclusive pictures show, the incredibly rare mammal is set to amaze theme park crowds.

Its only known habitat is in a small region of rain forest in the mountains of northern Guatemala.

The area is regularly hit by hurricanes and earthquakes and experts believe the genetic freak has developed as its only way of survival.

Rumours about its existence have abounded for years but they have proved impossible to find for two reasons: numbers are limited because they don't breed . . . well, like rabbits; and because they only come out at night and are flying, it is impossible to pin them in car headlights.

Hutch

Known in Spanish as Conejo Volar and nicknamed Connie, the rabbit has been in quarantine since January.

Today it appears at Pleasurewood Hills theme park near Lowestoft, Suffolk, and is set to star all summer.

Vet Roger Clarke said: "Conejos can fly 20 miles a night. Pleasurewood, on the advice of the Guatemalan Wildlife Trust, has built a giant aviary complete with hutch."

Connie is being trained by excited park workers Mark Culleton and Jacqui Hookam. "He is a natural performer and seems totally at home working with the parrots," said Mark.

Just one tip if you are planning to go along for a look. If you know anything about rabbits – don't look up.

Ear we go . . . Trainer Jacqui releases Connie who goes soaring into the skies

Down to earth . . . Connie collects a well-earned reward for his performance

Hare-borne . . . Connie spreads his wings and flies through the air with the greatest of ease

April fools! The fake joke stories that duped Britain

The Mail on Sunday, 1 April 1990 | *Daily Mail,* 1 April 1991 | *Today,* 1 April 1994

For centuries, 1 April has been a day of pranks, revelry and hoaxes. Even national newspapers have been known to get in on the action as seen in these three snippets…

1. In 1994, now defunct British newspaper *Today* ran a story about a newly discovered flying rabbit. Supposedly only found in Guatemala, the so called Conejo Volar was due to make its debut at Pleasurewood Hills theme park in Suffolk. The rabbit was shown with pigeon sized wings, and an aviary complete with a hutch was being built for him. This new species bounced off the radar the following day.

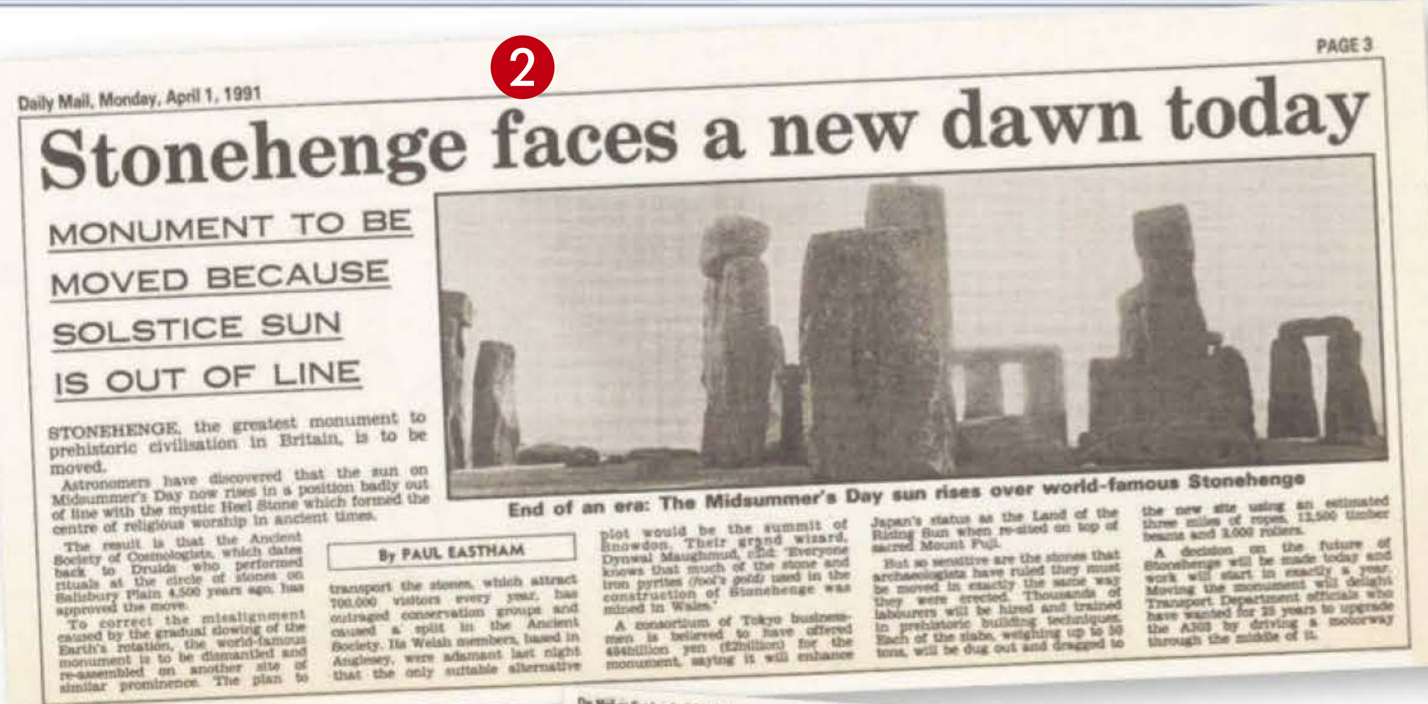
2. Back in 1991, the *Daily Mail* reported that the world famous Neolithic monument, Stonehenge, was to be moved. The Wiltshire monument was apparently out of line with the Sun on Midsummer's Day, so it was decided that it should be relocated. The Ancient Society of Cosmologists was said to back the move to correct the misalignment, while thousands of labourers were to be trained in the exact techniques originally used to erect the stones 5,000 years ago. According to the article, businessmen from Tokyo wanted to have the monument placed on top of Mount Fuji, while Welsh members of the Ancient Society thought it should be relocated to Snowdon.

3. In 1990, *The Mail on Sunday* came up with a novel way of tackling traffic jams. The paper suggested that the AA (Automobile Association) had developed a parachute squad of mechanics to fix broken down vehicles. Stranded motorists would be greeted with a flying squad of trained professionals within 10 minutes.

PRANKS OF AGES PAST

These are not the only examples of times that the media tried to fool the public with an April Fools' prank. In 1957, the BBC broadcast a three-minute spoof on an episode of *Panorama* about the 'Spaghetti tree'. Well regarded presenter Richard Dimbleby narrated the story of a family in Switzerland as they carried out their yearly spaghetti harvest. Spaghetti was still seen as an exotic food in 1950s Britain and many viewers got in touch to find out how they could get their own spaghetti bush. However, those in the know criticised the factual show for airing a joke episode. It is thought to be the first time that an April Fools' Day prank has been televised.

One of the first possible references to April Fools' Day appears in poet Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th century *Canterbury Tales*. The prank day's origins are unknown but it could be due to calendar changes. In some parts of medieval Europe, New Year's Day was celebrated at Easter. Once the Gregorian Calendar began being used, 1 January became the beginning of the year and it's thought that April Fools' Day was a way of laughing at those still stuck in the old ways.



Daily Mail, Monday, April 1, 1991

PAGE 3

Stonehenge faces a new dawn today

MONUMENT TO BE MOVED BECAUSE SOLSTICE SUN IS OUT OF LINE

End of an era: The Midsummer's Day sun rises over world-famous Stonehenge

By PAUL EASTHAM

STONEHENGE, the greatest monument to prehistoric civilisation in Britain, is to be moved.

Astronomers have discovered that the sun on Midsummer's Day now rises in a position badly out of line with the mystic Heel Stone which formed the centre of religious worship in ancient times.

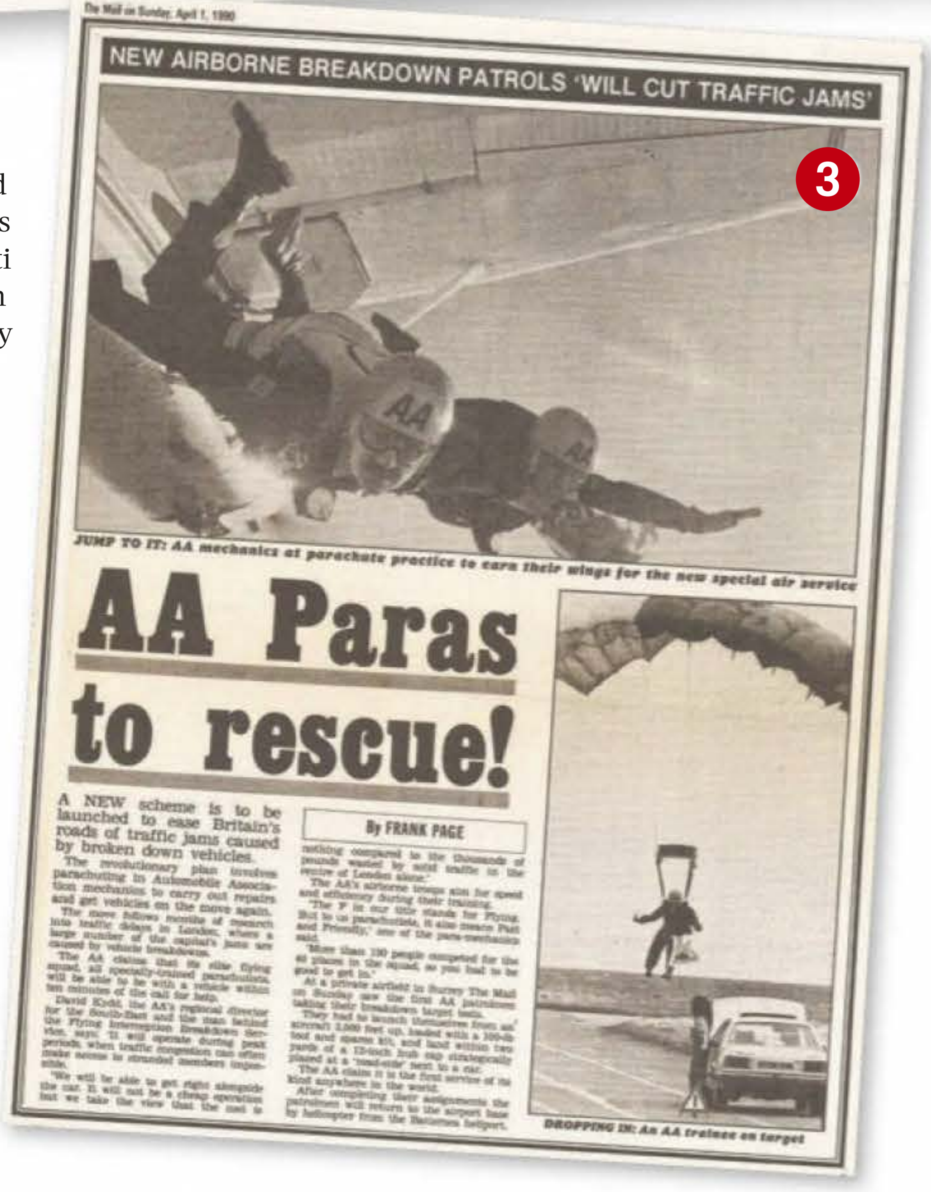
The result is that the Ancient Society of Cosmologists, which dates back to Druids who performed rituals at the circle of stones on Salisbury Plain 4,500 years ago, has approved the move.

To correct the misalignment caused by the gradual slowing of the Earth's rotation, the world-famous monument is to be dismantled and re-assembled on another site of similar prominence. The plan to transport the stones, which attract 700,000 visitors every year, has outraged conservation groups and caused a split in the Ancient Society. Its Welsh members, based in Anglesey, were adamant last night that the only suitable alternative plot would be the summit of Snowdon. Their grand wizard, Dynwal Maughmud, said: 'Everyone knows that much of the stone and iron pyrites (fool's gold) used in the construction of Stonehenge was mined in Wales.'

A consortium of Tokyo businessmen is believed to have offered 484billion yen (£2billion) for the monument, saying it will enhance Japan's status as the Land of the Rising Sun when re-sited on top of sacred Mount Fuji.

But so sensitive are the stones that archaeologists have ruled they must be moved in exactly the same way they were erected. Thousands of labourers will be hired and trained in prehistoric building techniques. Each of the slabs, weighing up to 50 tons, will be dug out and dragged to the new site using an estimated three miles of ropes, 12,500 timber beams and 2,000 rollers.

A decision on the future of Stonehenge will be made today and work will start in exactly a year. Moving the monument will delight Transport Department officials who have wanted for 25 years to upgrade the A303 by driving a motorway through the middle of it.



The Mail on Sunday, April 1, 1990

NEW AIRBORNE BREAKDOWN PATROLS 'WILL CUT TRAFFIC JAMS'

JUMP TO IT: AA mechanics at parachute practice to earn their wings for the new special air service

AA Paras to rescue!

By FRANK PAGE

A NEW scheme is to be launched to ease Britain's roads of traffic jams caused by broken down vehicles.

DROPPING IN: An AA trainee on target

THIS MONTH IN... 1828

ANNIVERSARIES THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY

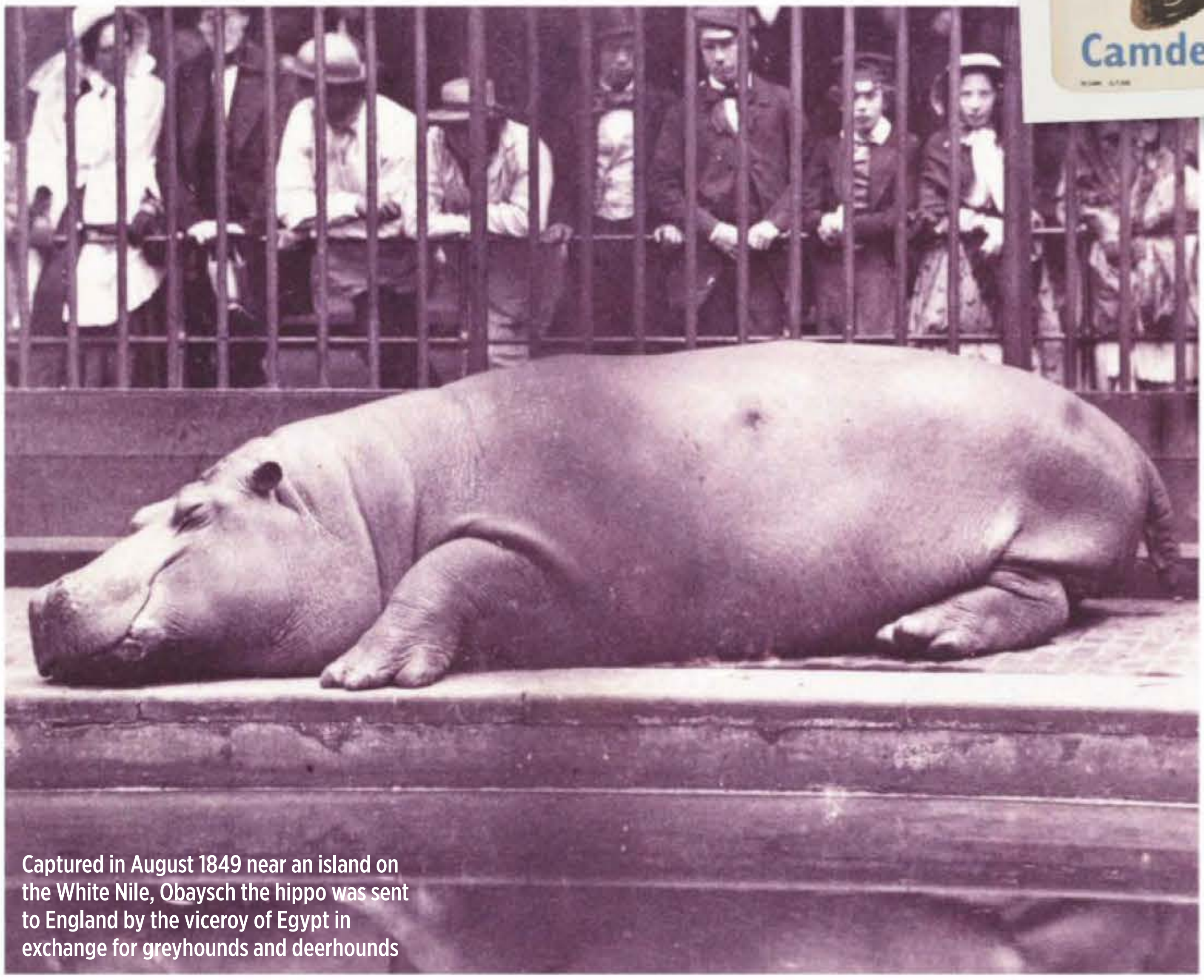
GIANT PA
C&RE '39
Camden Tow

London Zoo opens (but not to everyone)

On 27 April 1828, the tranquil space of Regent's Park in central London, was transformed when the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) opened the world's first zoo for scientific study. No longer was the leafy royal park just a home to squirrels and pigeons – visitors to the zoo could now come to face to face with the Arabian oryx and llamas.

The Zoological Society of London itself was founded in April 1826 by chemist Sir Humphry Davy and Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles (the government administrator who had established Singapore in 1819), among others. The society was formed for the purpose of creating a collection of animals for study; a zoo was also proposed that would "interest and amuse the public". When Raffles died in July 1826, it was Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice, 3rd Marquis of Lansdowne, who took on the project, overseeing construction of the first animal houses on land that had been purchased in Regent's Park. The architect Decimus Burton, responsible for the Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner, designed the layout for the zoo.

Initially, London Zoo was only open to fellows of ZSL to study exotic animals. But members of the public could visit the zoo if they had written permission from a fellow and paid an entrance fee of one shilling. Amid concerns that the exotic animals wouldn't survive in the cool and damp British climate, they were all kept inside until 1902.



Captured in August 1849 near an island on the White Nile, Obaysch the hippo was sent to England by the viceroy of Egypt in exchange for greyhounds and deerhounds

RARE CREATURES

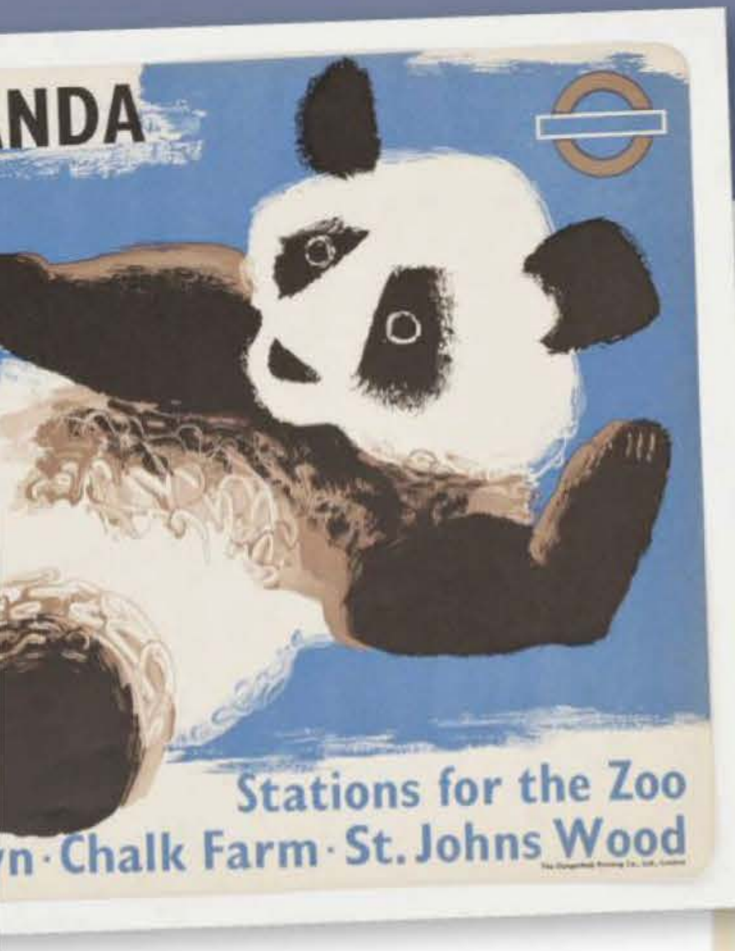
One of the 80 visitors on that opening day in April 1828 was British Prime Minster Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington he and others saw creatures that would become extinct within a few years, including the quagga. A subspecies of the plains zebra, this South African creature was hunted to extinction in the late 19th century; the quagga mare at London Zoo is the only example to have been photographed alive the last of its kind died in Amsterdam Zoo on 12 August 1883. London Zoo was later home to an Arabian oryx (a type of antelope) and the now extinct Tasmanian tiger (also known as the thylacine), a small dog like marsupial once found across Australasia but whose numbers declined due to competition from the dingo, human persecution and climate changes.

> "The quagga at London Zoo is the only example to have been photographed alive"

In 1829, George IV awarded ZSL a Royal Charter and over the following years, zoological collections from the royal menageries at Windsor and the Tower of London were incorporated into London Zoo. One new arrival who joined the zoo from the Tower was a grizzly bear called Old Martin – he had originally been gifted (fully grown!) to George III by the Hudson's Bay Company.

In March 1838, naturalist and ZSL fellow Charles Darwin visited the zoo to study an orangutan named Jenny. This was Darwin's first experience with an ape, and she made a great impression on him. He returned twice more and made detailed notes of his observations: he noted how human-like some of her expressions and behaviours were, sowing

GETTY IMAGES X3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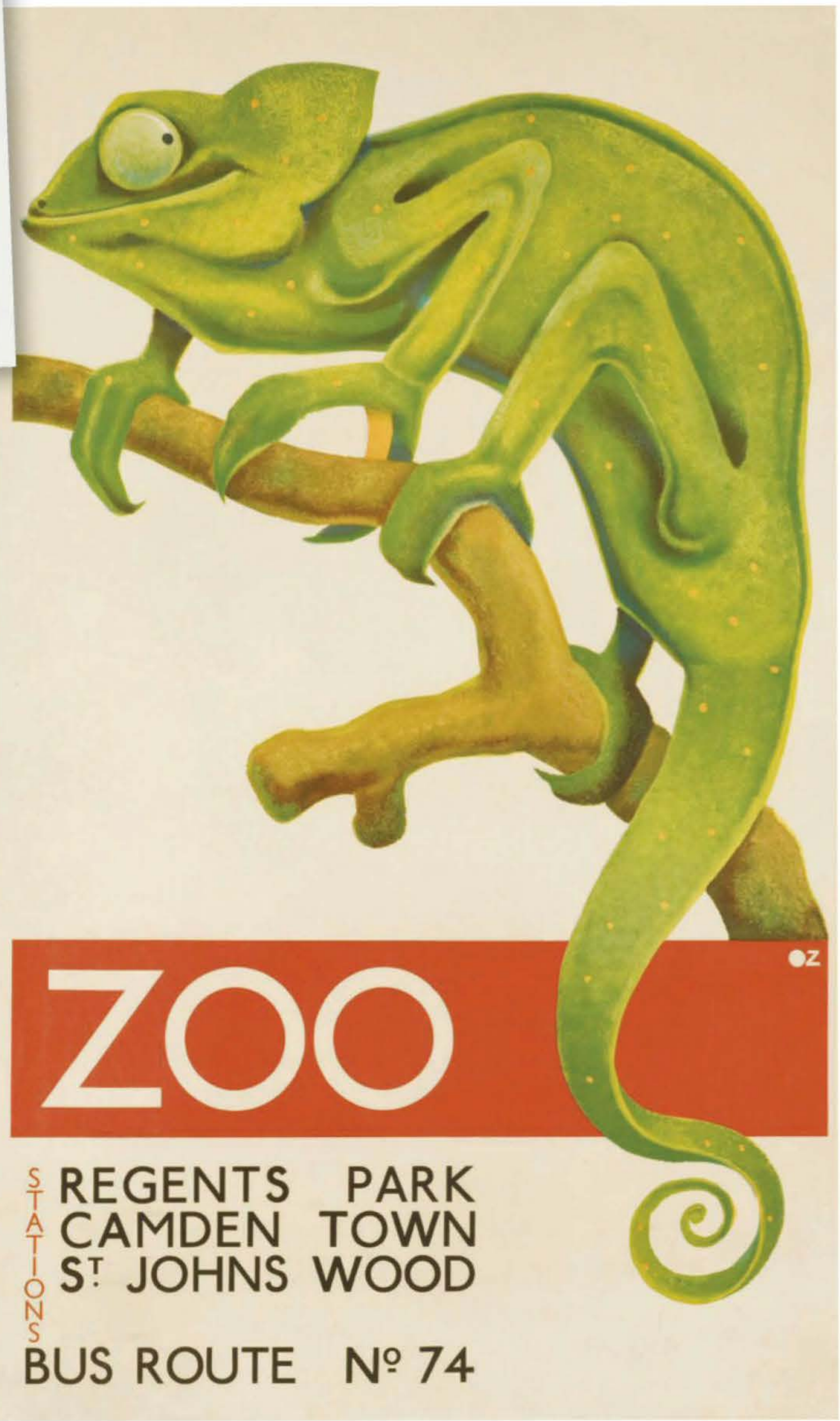


ABOVE & RIGHT: **London transport posters impressed on the public how easy it was to get to the zoo – and promoted some of its more exotic residents**

the seeds for his theory of a link between humans and apes.

A ZOO FOR ALL

To gain more funding, the zoo was fully opened to the public on 10 April 1847, charging an entry fee of sixpence. The zoo would later open the world's first reptile house (in 1849) and the first public aquarium (in 1853). Its giraffe house remains the oldest zoo building in the world that is still being used for its original purpose.

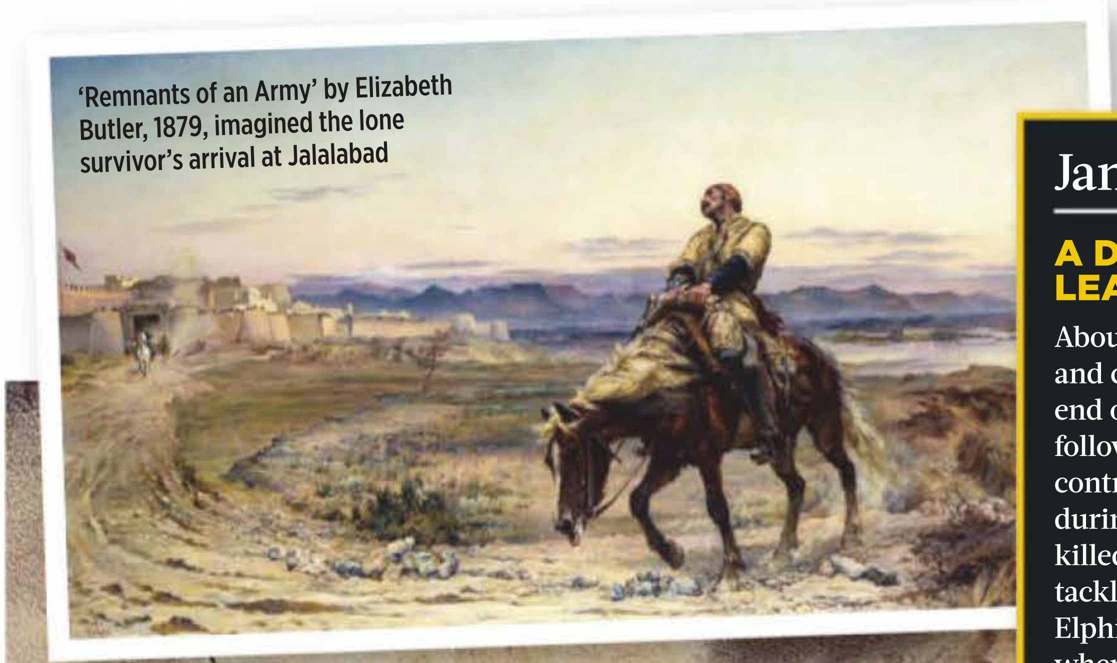
Many of the animals who have called London Zoo their home over the years have become famous in their own right. In 1850, the zoo welcomed the first living hippopotamus to be seen in Europe since the Roman era. Named Obaysch, he attracted up to 10,000 visitors a day. An American black bear given to the zoo in 1914, named Winnipeg, became so popular with author AA Milne's son – Christopher Robin – that Milne was inspired to write his *Winnie the Pooh* stories. And in 1865, the zoo became home to the almost 11ft-tall Jumbo, the elephant whose name became a catch-all term for anything extremely large.

There only two zoos which can claim to be older than London Zoo – Vienna's Tiergarten Schönbrunn, and the Ménagerie du Jardin des Plantes in Paris. Unlike London Zoo though, both locations began as menageries for their respective royal families. Today's 36-acre London Zoo is one of the largest of its kind in Britain, boasting more than 19,000 animals, including lions, monkeys and gorillas. ⊙

YEAR IN FOCUS....

SNAPSHOTS OF THE WORLD FROM ONE YEAR IN THE PAST

1842

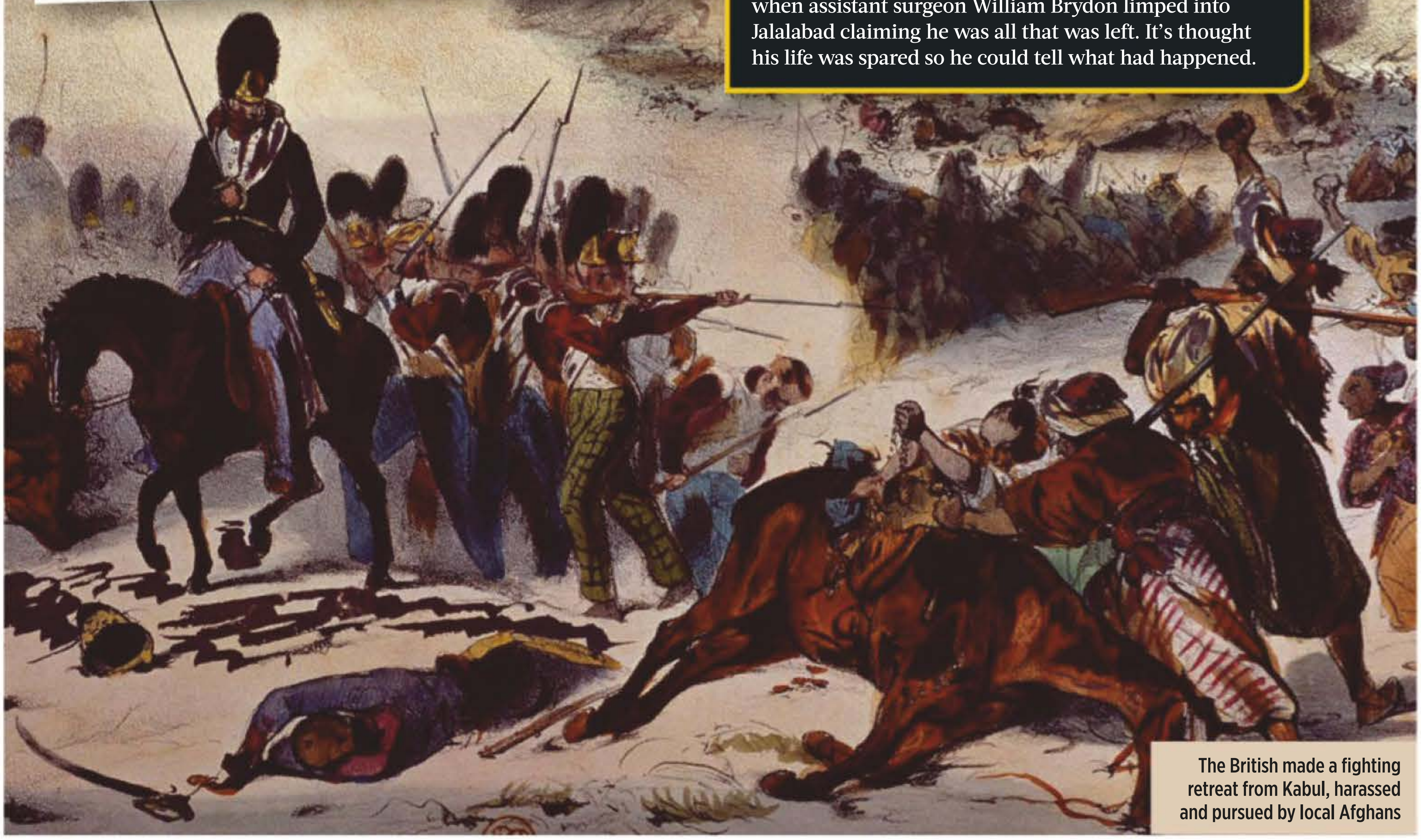


'Remnants of an Army' by Elizabeth Butler, 1879, imagined the lone survivor's arrival at Jalalabad

January

A DISASTROUS RETREAT LEAVES A LONE SURVIVOR

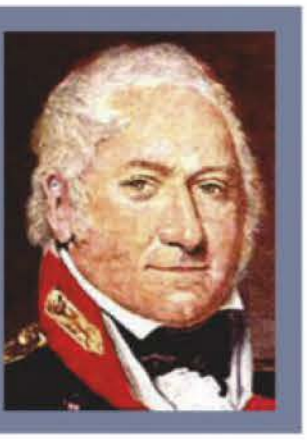
About 16,000 British East India Company Army troops and civilians flee Kabul on 6 January 1842, towards the end of the First Anglo-Afghan War – the mass retreat followed an Afghan revolt in the city against British control. Exhaustion, cold and hunger claimed many lives during the 90-mile march to Jalalabad, but most were killed in a series of standoffs with local Afghans as they tackled the snowbound passes. The so-called 'Massacre of Elphinstone's Army' became apparent a few days later, when assistant surgeon William Brydon limped into Jalalabad claiming he was all that was left. It's thought his life was spared so he could tell what had happened.



The British made a fighting retreat from Kabul, harassed and pursued by local Afghans

DIED: 13 MARCH

Henry Shrapnel



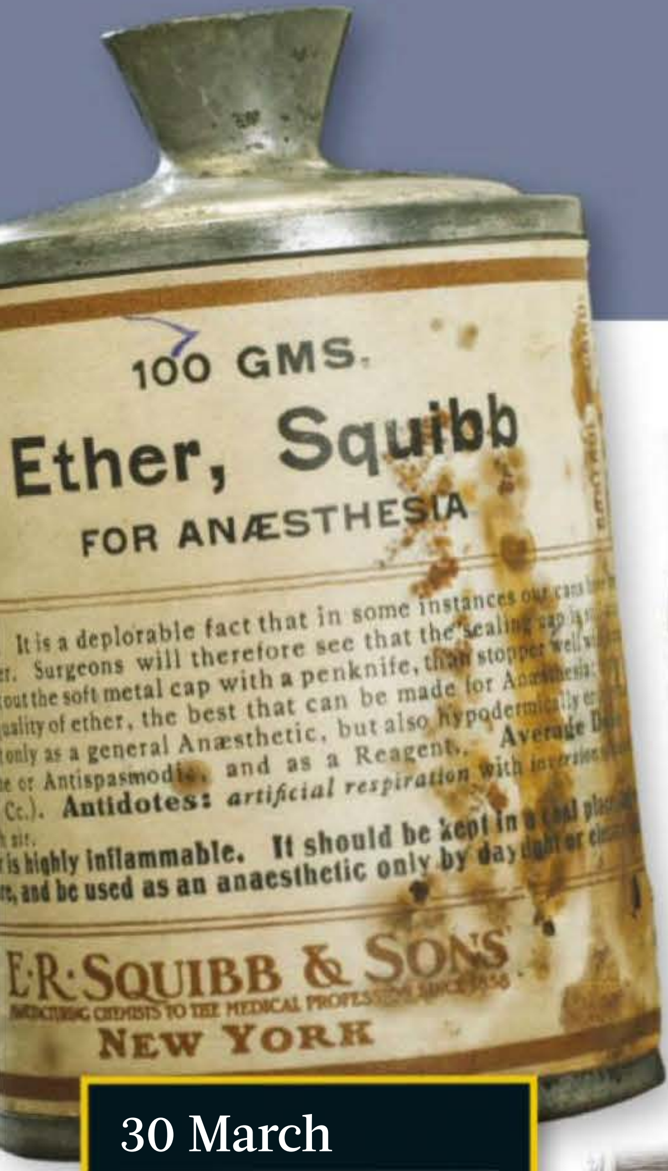
In around 1784, British Army officer Henry Shrapnel invented what he called 'spherical case' ammunition – a hollow cannonball filled with lead shot that exploded in mid-air. In 1803, the British Army developed a similar shell and named it after its inventor.

BORN: 15 JANUARY

Mary MacKillop

Mary MacKillop founded Australia's first order of nuns – the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Briefly excommunicated for insubordination, in 2010 she became Australia's first saint as recognised by the Catholic Church.

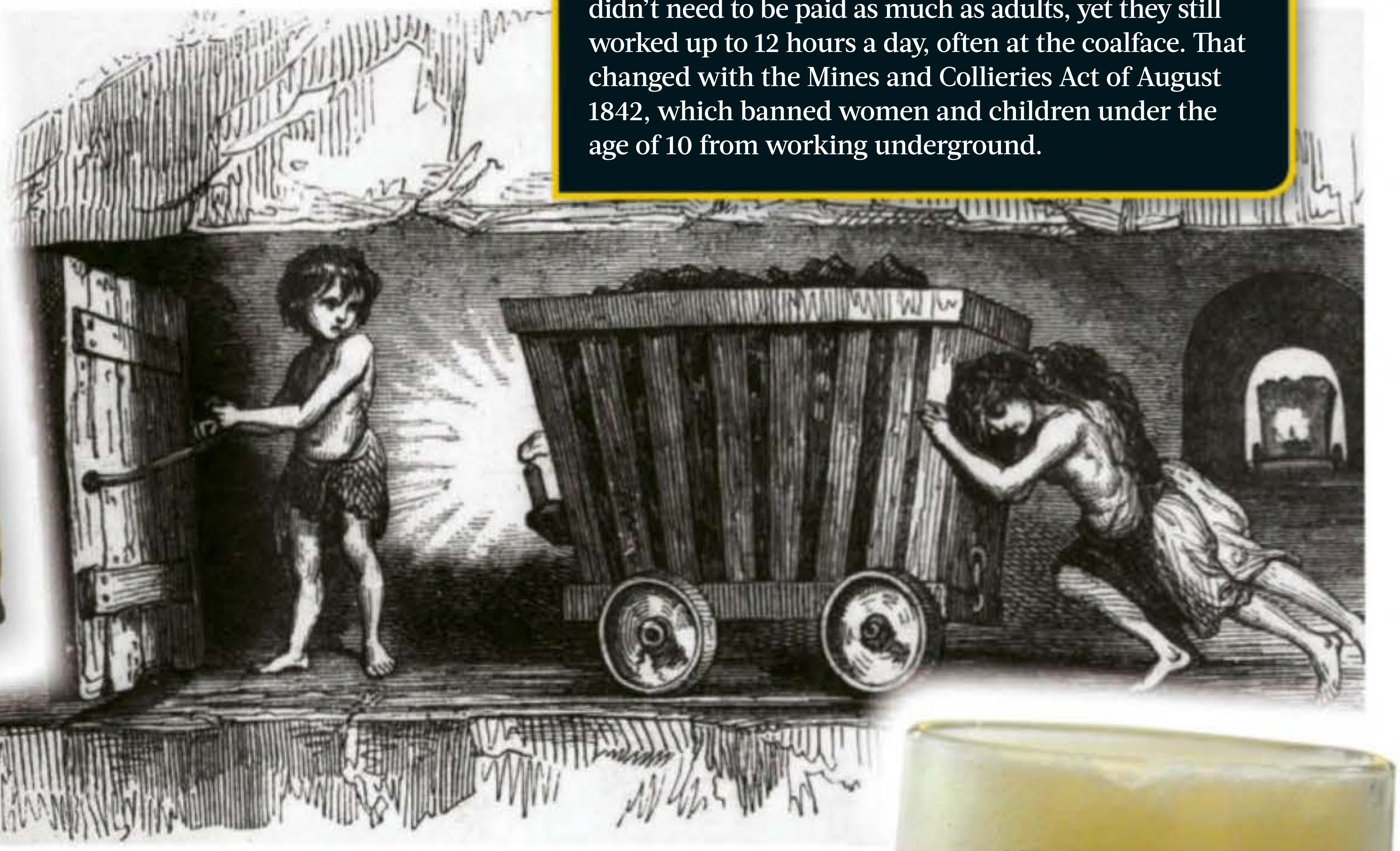
ALAMY X4, GETTY IMAGES X4



30 March

PAINFUL SURGERY BECOMES A THING OF THE PAST

As James M Venable prepared for a tumour to be removed from his neck in the US state of Georgia, he would have been suitably afraid. Surgery in the mid-19th century was risky and painful, but he was in luck. His physician, Crawford Williamson Long, gave him an experimental ether gas, knocking Venable out for the procedure and becoming the first doctor to use the substance as a general anaesthetic. Long didn't publish his findings for a few years, however, so the credit went to dentist William Morton.



10 August

BRITISH CHILDREN ARE SAVED FROM THE DANGERS OF THE MINES

Before 1842, children as young as five could be found toiling away underground in Britain's mines – they were small enough to get into the crammed spaces and didn't need to be paid as much as adults, yet they still worked up to 12 hours a day, often at the coalface. That changed with the Mines and Collieries Act of August 1842, which banned women and children under the age of 10 from working underground.

632

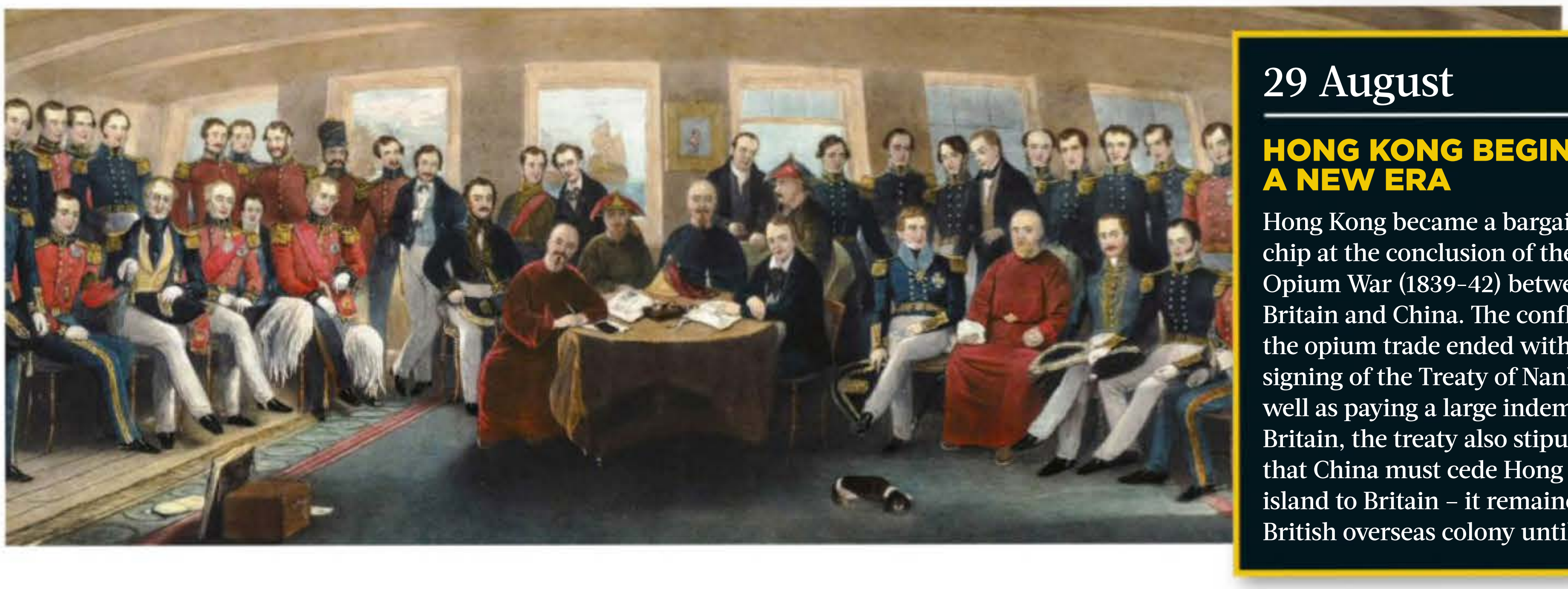
The number of years it took for Cologne Cathedral to be built. Work on the grand Gothic structure began in 1248, but construction stalled in the 16th century due to a lack of funding and wouldn't resume until 1842.

Pilsner Urquell

11 November

A COLOUR CHANGE IS NO SMALL BEER

In 1842, a group of beer lovers in Plzeň, modern-day Czech Republic, built a new brewery, hired Bavarian brewer Josef Groll and changed the world of beer forever. Using bitter Saaz hops, Moravian barley, local soft water and yeast, Groll created a golden pale lager – beer had always traditionally been dark brown – and called it Pilsner Urquell. It was first served in November 1842 at the market for the feast of St Martin.



29 August

HONG KONG BEGINS A NEW ERA

Hong Kong became a bargaining chip at the conclusion of the First Opium War (1839-42) between Britain and China. The conflict over the opium trade ended with the signing of the Treaty of Nanking. As well as paying a large indemnity to Britain, the treaty also stipulated that China must cede Hong Kong island to Britain – it remained a British overseas colony until 1997.

IN A NUTSHELL

YOUR BRIEF EXPLAINER TO HISTORY'S HOT TOPICS

The Pilgrimage of Grace

WHAT WAS THE PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE?

When Henry VIII broke with the Roman Catholic Church, declared himself head of the Church of England and began dissolving the monasteries, not everyone was happy to go along with him. England had been a Catholic country for nearly a millennium and the majority of its people were still loyal to the Church and the Pope. Pockets of resistance in the north of England rose up against these religious changes; the 1536 Pilgrimage of Grace was the greatest of these rebellions.

HOW SERIOUS WAS IT?

The Pilgrimage was one of the most serious internal political threats of Henry's reign and was unusual as both nobles and commoners were united in a common cause.

WHAT CAUSED THE UPRISINGS?

During the early 16th century, the Protestant Reformation swept across Europe. Originally a defender of the Catholic faith, Henry VIII turned his back on Rome when the Pope refused to grant his request to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

A staunch Catholic, Catherine was a popular queen, and many sympathised with her plight when she was cast aside. Then, in November 1534, came the Act of Supremacy, which formed the Church of England and placed Henry VIII at its head. Church taxes were now paid to the Crown, and work was soon underway to dissolve England's religious houses.

In late September 1536, the King's officials arrived in Lincolnshire to begin closing some of its monasteries and seizing land. In protest at the religious changes, Nicholas Melton, a cobbler in Louth, was inspired to lead a rising of 20,000 people the group marched on Lincoln, enraged by rumours that the silver in the church there was to be replaced with tin, and that marriages and baptisms were to be taxed. The Duke of Suffolk was sent to disperse the crowd and it soon disbanded. Melton and some other rebels were hanged at Tyburn, but rebellion was now stirring in other parts of northern England.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE PILGRIMAGE?

In Yorkshire, lawyer Robert Aske heard what had happened in Lincolnshire and vowed to play his part. He led a group of more than 20,000 to march on York and more joined in as the rebels journeyed across Yorkshire: it became known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. When the rebels reached Pontefract Castle, nobles who had initially sheltered from the uprising relented and joined them. This turn of events was considered a serious threat to the crown, so Thomas Howard, the Duke of Norfolk and George Talbot, the Earl of Shrewsbury, were sent north to treat with them.

WHAT DID THE REBELS WANT?

The Pilgrims' oath contained a list of demands that included restoring the monasteries, protecting the right of Catholics to worship, returning the Pope as head of the church and restoring Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon's daughter, Mary, to the line of succession. The punishment of the King's advisor, Thomas Cromwell, a major player in the Dissolution, was also requested.

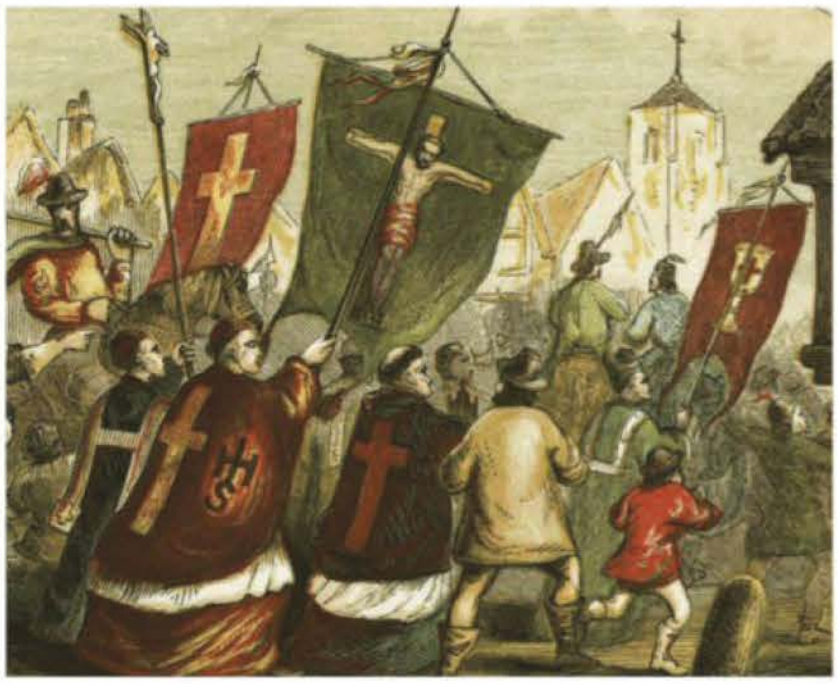
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

By the time the rebels reached Doncaster, they were nearly 40,000 strong. Norfolk began negotiations with Aske, hoping to delay proceedings until Henry could send an army. Aske and his rebels were offered a pardon and were given a vague promise that England would return to papal obedience and that a parliament free of royal influence would be considered. Aske naively believed this and dispersed the rebels.

During early 1537, more rebellions sprung up across the country and Norfolk used this as a justification to put the Pilgrimage leaders on trial. The rebels were found guilty of treason and more than 200 people lords, churchmen and commoners were executed.

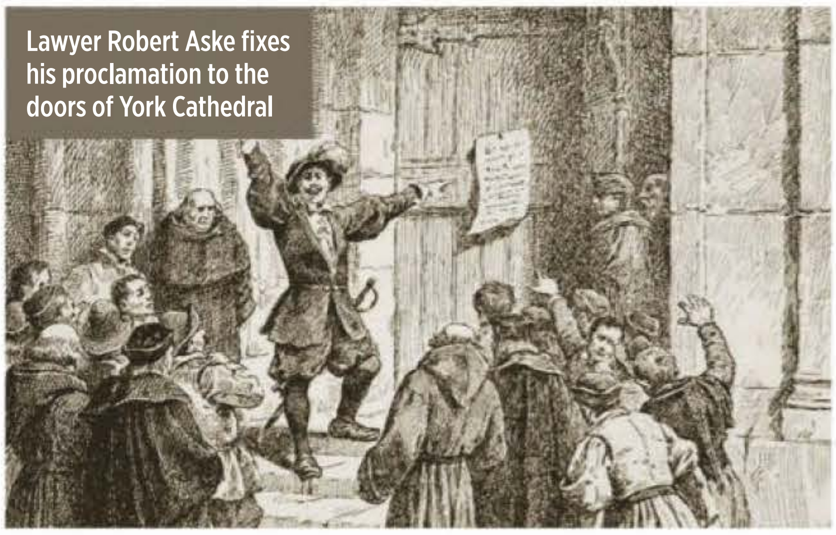
DID THE REBELLION ACHIEVE ANYTHING?

The promises made to Aske were not honoured, and the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the Reformation continued more than 800 monasteries, abbeys, nunneries and friaries would be dissolved by 1540. Yet there were some successes: taxation was blocked for a short period and four of the sacraments confirmation, marriage, the anointing of the sick and holy orders were restored in the Bishop's Book of 1537.



The Pilgrimage of Grace united peasants and nobles in common cause

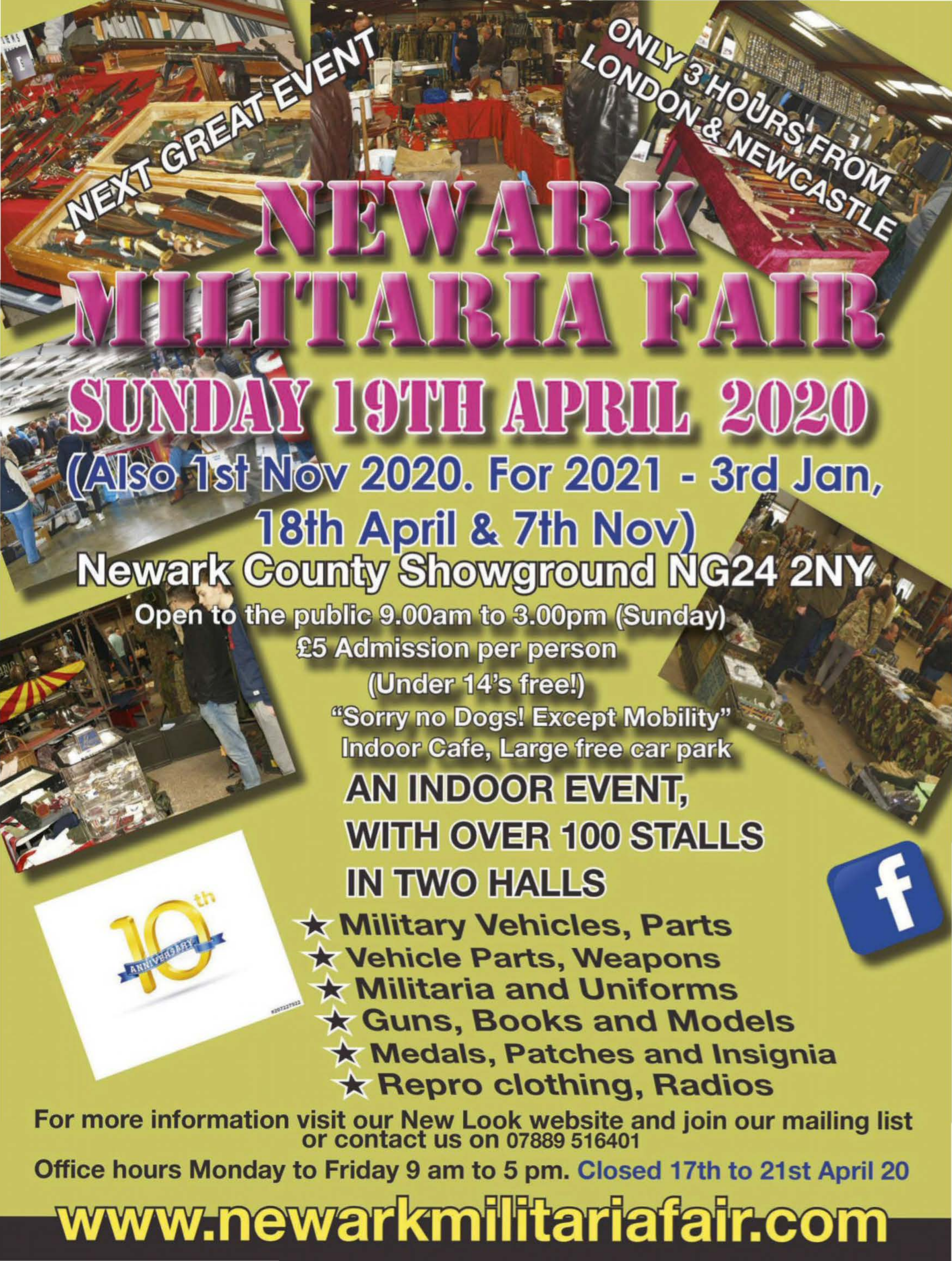
> "The Pilgrimage was one of the most serious internal threats of Henry's reign"



Lawyer Robert Aske fixes his proclamation to the doors of York Cathedral

BBC RADIO 4 Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the Dissolution of the Monasteries in an episode of *In Our Time*. *bbc.co.uk/programmes/b009jtq1*

BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X2



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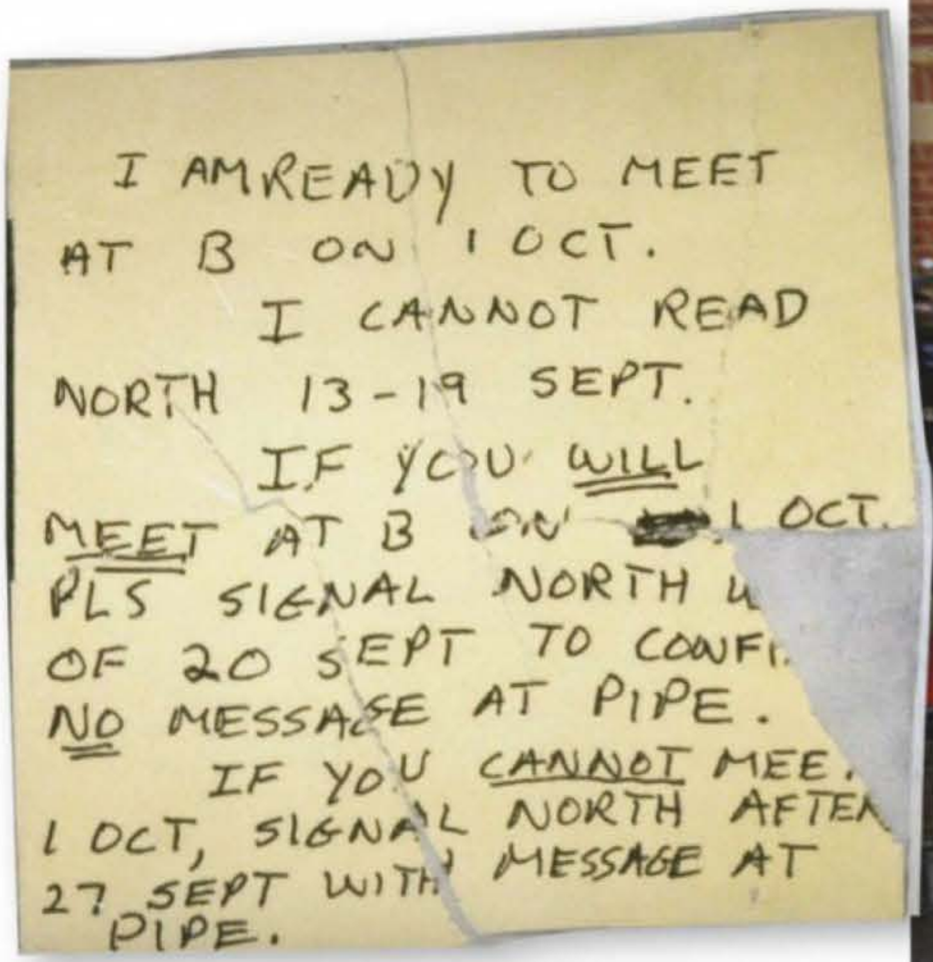
THE SECRETS AND LIES OF COLD WAR SPIES

They engaged in thrilling adventures in a shadowy world. But who were the spies who turned traitor during the Cold War, what were they up to, and why did they do it? **Michael Goodman** steps into the secret world of history's real James Bonds…

ARCANGEL X1, GETTY IMAGES X4



I AM READY TO MEET
AT B ON 1 OCT.
I CANNOT READ
NORTH 13-19 SEPT.
IF YOU WILL
MEET AT B ON 1 OCT.
PLS SIGNAL NORTH W
OF 20 SEPT TO CONFI
NO MESSAGE AT PIPE.
IF YOU CANNOT MEE
1 OCT, SIGNAL NORTH AFTE
27 SEPT WITH MESSAGE AT
PIPE.

ABOVE: **FBI agents found this torn-up note in Ames's bin, setting up a meeting with his Russian contact**

MAIN: **Aldrich Ames, a CIA agent turned Soviet spy, pictured at a federal courthouse in Virginia, in 1994**

GETTY IMAGES X3

Cold War Moscow was a place like no other. The eyes and ears of the Soviet secret police, the KGB, were everywhere; the only place that was really safe, one political prisoner would later write, was in your dreams. It was a place where life and death existed side by side, as did opportunity and imprisonment. To betray the state was to risk everything, yet on one cold and snowy evening in February 1978 that was precisely the choice one individual made.

As Gus Hathaway drove from the US Embassy to his residence he stopped for petrol. He was coming out of the petrol station when there was a tap on his car window. A Russian.

Hathaway was one of the original breed of the CIA, recruited at the start of the Cold War, part of a cadre who spent their careers hidden in the shadows fighting cat and mouse battles with their Russian counterparts. Hathaway had been appointed as CIA Moscow station chief at a crucial time in the espionage confrontation between East and West: the CIA had lost a number of significant agents, and those back in Washington had decreed that no new agents were to be recruited until the losses could be explained. But Hathaway knew better than to reject an overt gesture from the 'main enemy'.

This was neither the first nor the last approach the Russian made, but eventually he was able to make contact and Hathaway secured support to recruit him. The result was more than Hathaway could have hoped for. The Russian, Adolf Tolkachev, was a disgruntled engineer and over the next seven years he provided document after document, sharing a wealth of intelligence and saving the US defence establishment so much money that he earned the nickname the 'Billion Dollar Spy'.

From his first interactions with the CIA, Tolkachev would have been made aware of the dangers he faced. He had to be tightly controlled by the CIA with his information very carefully concealed so that only select individuals knew anything about him. But even this was not enough. At some point in 1985, the KGB learnt of his identity, almost certainly via CIA officers secretly working for the Russians, and Tolkachev was arrested, interrogated and executed.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Tolkachev's experiences and fate were not unique. The Cold War espionage game had begun before World War II came to an end, and although spy technology evolved over the decades, the core elements rarely changed. There were two broad types of human spies: those with an incentive to spy, and those who made the calculated decision themselves to spy and volunteered their services. Finding such people in a position of access – to documents and people – was tremendously difficult, and it took huge efforts over years to recruit them.

Encouraging someone to work for an opposing intelligence agency usually involved a certain level of psychological manipulation. What could be used as an incentive or, in the case of some of those recruited by the KGB, what form of blackmail might be employed? Some writers use the acronym MICE to explain these incentives: people spy for Money, Ideology, Coercion or Ego. For Tolkachev, the driving factor was ideology, but for the CIA officer who likely betrayed him, Aldrich 'Rick' Ames, the impetus was entirely financial.

Ames was probably the most destructive Soviet spy or 'mole' hidden in the CIA. He spent more than three decades in the agency, the vast majority

in the Directorate of Operations with a focus on the Soviet Union. For various reasons, Ames got into debt and grew desperate until he could not find a way out. Then, suddenly in the mid-1980s, he had a brainwave: he would sell secrets of limited utility to the Russians.

In April 1985, Ames arranged to meet a KGB officer based in the US. When the latter failed to show, Ames brazenly walked to the Soviet Embassy, demanded to speak to the KGB officer in charge and deposited a letter asking for $50,000 in exchange for the identities of several supposed Soviet spies. (He later alleged that he suspected they were plants anyway – that is, not real spies, but agents intentionally dangled by the Russians to confuse the CIA.) Unsurprisingly, not only were the Russians keen, but they wanted more and Ames, increasingly, was happy to provide it.

Ames' espionage career finally ended in 1994 when he was arrested: his extravagant lifestyle had finally given him away. In exchange for the millions of dollars that he had received, Ames had provided scores of names, a number of whom were subsequently executed. In contrast to these sorry individuals, Ames was convicted and imprisoned, where he remains to this day.

IDEOLOGIES AT WAR

What caused the likes of Ames and Tolkachev to turn against their own nations? The Cold War was, above all, an ideological battle, one that in many ways began in 1917 with the Bolsheviks and the October Revolution. Once Lenin and his followers had taken power, they set about transforming Russia into the Soviet Union, a vast communist monolith with two primary focuses: maintaining a strict communist ideology and discipline, and exporting their ideology globally with the ultimate goal of inspiring a worldwide revolution. The natural enemy of communism was capitalism, so it was perhaps inevitable that the two main protagonists of these beliefs – communist Russia and capitalist America - would lock horns.

Yet whilst the theoretical origins of the Cold War can be traced to 1917, in practice it was not until the end of World War II that these differences emerged in tangible fashion. Until then, the US and Soviet Union had been bound together in a 'marriage of convenience', conceived to take on greater foes – Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Imperial Japan.

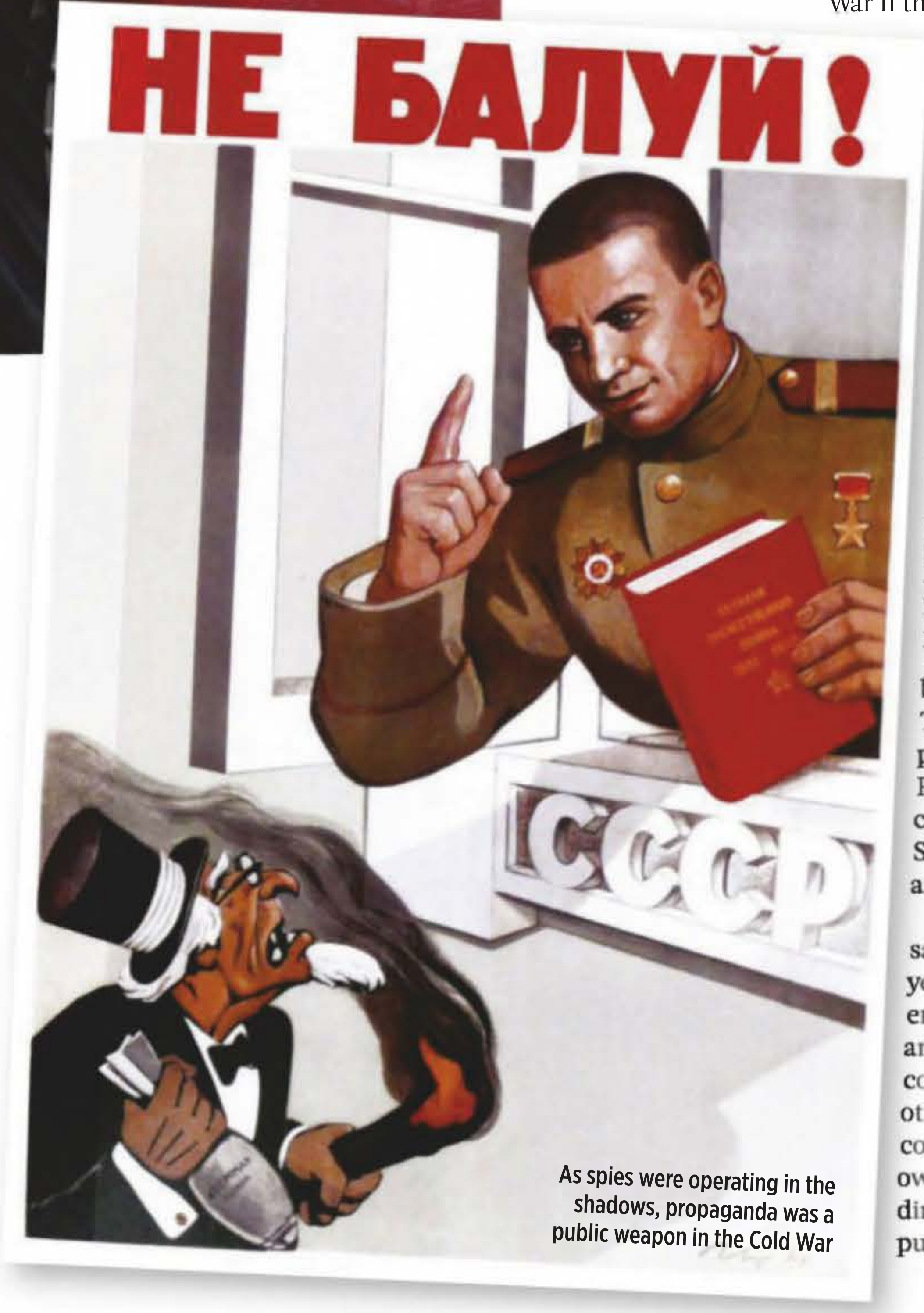
As the war wound down and the Axis powers looked defeat in the face, questions emerged about who might be the next big enemy. For both the US and Soviet Union, there was a sense of inevitability that they might become rivals, and by 1947 – less than two years after the last shots of World War II had been fired – the Cold War had become a reality through the Truman Doctrine, a foreign policy declaration by US President Harry Truman that committed the US to fighting Soviet expansion in Europe and beyond.

Lines had been drawn in the sand, and for the next 40-plus years the superpowers were engaged in a political, military and, above all, intelligence conflict. Neither trusted the other, and each undertook colossal efforts to extend their own influence, sometimes directly and often through puppet governments and

DID YOU KNOW?

ENLIST THE ENEMY

In the aftermath of World War II, the US spy agencies are estimated to have enlisted around 1,000 former Nazis or Nazi collaborators to act as spies and informants during the Cold War.



As spies were operating in the shadows, propaganda was a public weapon in the Cold War

Continues on p33

THE SUPER SPIES ON BOTH SIDES

Information was a vital weapon in the Cold War, and these men and women, whether for ideological beliefs or money, were on the front line

OLEG PENKOVSKY

Russian spying for the UK and the US
FATE: Quietly executed after a public trial

Penkovsky was a colonel in the Soviet military intelligence organisation, the GRU. He became upset at not being promoted – feeling that he should be a general – so offered his services to the West. Quite uniquely, he was jointly 'run' by both MI6 and the CIA. His espionage career only lasted a few years before he was caught and executed, but in that time he played a pivotal role in the way that US President John F Kennedy dealt with the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, providing reams of data on the technical aspects of the missiles that had been placed on Cuba, as well as describing how the Soviet Premier, Nikita Khrushchev, based his aggression on bluff.

IGOR GOUZENKO

Russian spying for Canada
FATE: Survived the Cold War

Gouzenko was a cipher clerk at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa. He became disillusioned with the Soviet system and the fact that his family was being recalled back to Moscow. A few days after the end of World War II, he offered his services to Canadian intelligence and would subsequently defect to the West. His most important information was on the continued Soviet efforts to penetrate the American and British nuclear weapons programme.

DAPHNE PARK

British spy in Moscow and elsewhere
FATE: Survived the Cold War

Park worked in British intelligence during World War II, going on to join MI6 in 1948. She spent her whole career there, serving overseas in a number of different embassies, including those in Moscow and Hanoi, Vietnam, acting as a diplomat. Earning the nickname, the 'Queen of Spies', her remarkable espionage career was all the more important as she was the first female 'controller' – one of the top directors – in MI6, at a time when gender imbalance was strong within the organisation. Following her retirement, Park was made a baroness.

OLEG GORDIEVSKY

Russian spying for the UK
FATE: Fled into hiding

Gordievsky was probably Britain's most important spy. Recruited by MI6 in the mid-1970s when stationed in Denmark, he was a patriotic Russian who despised the Soviet system. He became KGB resident (top officer) at the London embassy and provided masses of intelligence on Britons spying for the Soviets, as well as on increasing paranoia in the Kremlin about a nuclear attack. In 1985, he was summoned to Moscow, where he was drugged and interrogated. He was rescued in dramatic fashion two months later, hidden in the boot of a specially modified car and smuggled to Finland.

> **“Hanssen was motivated entirely by financial gain, being paid millions of dollars by the Russians”**

THE ROSENBERGS

Americans spying for the Soviet Union
FATE: Executed by electric chair

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were an American husband-and-wife team involved in passing on information regarding the Manhattan Project, the codename given to the construction of the atomic bomb during World War II. They oversaw an espionage network that included Ethel's brother and their main source was Klaus Fuchs, the German-born British scientist who handed over large amounts of scientific and technical intelligence on the atom bomb to the Russians. Quite how important the Rosenbergs themselves were in this network is a matter of debate, particularly Ethel. They were identified following a joint Anglo-American codebreaking effort into Soviet transmissions, were arrested and convicted in the early 1950s. They were both executed by electric chair on the same day.

ROBERT HANSSEN

American spying for the Soviet Union
FATE: Imprisoned for life

Hanssen decided to offer his services to Soviet intelligence just a few years after joining the FBI. He was motivated entirely by financial gain – he would end up being paid millions of US dollars by the Russians – and passed across thousands upon thousands of pages of highly classified documents. Included in these was not only information on military and technical subjects, but details of Russians who had volunteered to work for the US. Hanssen faithfully passed these all to his Soviet handlers without regard to what might happen to them. Even the fall of communism did little to quell his activities and he continued to work for the post-Soviet Russian intelligence agencies. He was finally caught in 2001 and by pleading guilty managed to avoid the death penalty. He's currently in prison in the US without the possibility of parole.

THE CAMBRIDGE FIVE

Britons spying for the Soviet Union
FATE: All unmasked, none prosecuted

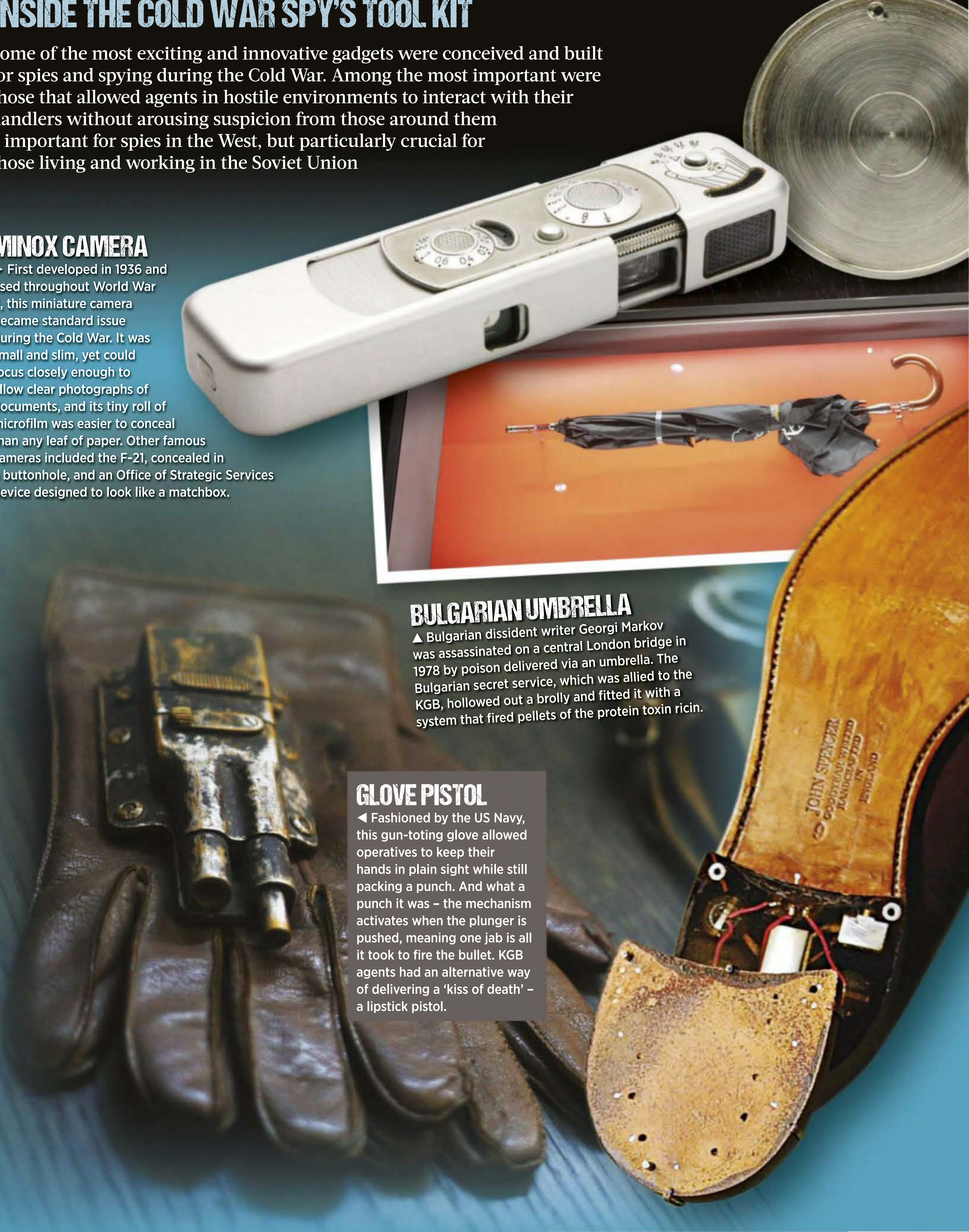
The quintet of (*clockwise from top left*) Anthony Blunt, Donald Maclean, John Cairncross, Kim Philby and Guy Burgess were devastatingly effective. All recruited by Soviet intelligence while at the University of Cambridge in the 1930s, they ideologically believed in the communist cause. Each went on to a successful career in government: taken together they had access to intelligence secrets, the atomic bomb, diplomatic affairs and propaganda efforts. Maclean and Burgess defected to Moscow in the early 1950s, Cairncross was only publicly unmasked in retirement, Blunt was discovered but remained out of prison, and Philby escaped to Russia. Philby was probably the most destructive, having served in the late 1940s as the MI6 liaison officer to the CIA.

GETTY IMAGES X8, SHUTTERSTOCK X1

GADGETS AND GIZMOS:

INSIDE THE COLD WAR SPY'S TOOL KIT

Some of the most exciting and innovative gadgets were conceived and built for spies and spying during the Cold War. Among the most important were those that allowed agents in hostile environments to interact with their handlers without arousing suspicion from those around them – important for spies in the West, but particularly crucial for those living and working in the Soviet Union



MINOX CAMERA

► First developed in 1936 and used throughout World War II, this miniature camera became standard issue during the Cold War. It was small and slim, yet could focus closely enough to allow clear photographs of documents, and its tiny roll of microfilm was easier to conceal than any leaf of paper. Other famous cameras included the F-21, concealed in a buttonhole, and an Office of Strategic Services device designed to look like a matchbox.

BULGARIAN UMBRELLA

▲ Bulgarian dissident writer Georgi Markov was assassinated on a central London bridge in 1978 by poison delivered via an umbrella. The Bulgarian secret service, which was allied to the KGB, hollowed out a brolly and fitted it with a system that fired pellets of the protein toxin ricin.

GLOVE PISTOL

◄ Fashioned by the US Navy, this gun-toting glove allowed operatives to keep their hands in plain sight while still packing a punch. And what a punch it was – the mechanism activates when the plunger is pushed, meaning one jab is all it took to fire the bullet. KGB agents had an alternative way of delivering a 'kiss of death' – a lipstick pistol.

СОФИЙСКИЙ СОБОР
XI ВЕК
КИЕВ

HOLLOW COIN

▲ Hollow coins such as this one could be used to conceal microfilm and microdots. They could be opened by putting a pin into a tiny hole at the top of the coin.

SHOE BUG

◀ If there was ever a gadget that proves the axiom of needing to tread carefully, it was the shoe bug. In the 1960s and 70s, the Romanian secret service stole American diplomats' shoes, snuck in a tiny mic and transmitter, and listened in as the unsuspecting official went about their business.

DID YOU KNOW?

EYE IN THE SKY

The camera on the U2 spy plane could capture objects as small as 75cm wide, while its film could cover a stretch 2,700 miles long by 125 miles wide – all this while flying on the edge of outer space at twice the height of commercial aircraft.

5½ FT.
5 FT.
4½ FT.
4 FT.
3½ FT.
3 FT.
F.B.I. - N.Y.C.

American citizens Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were arrested in 1950 for espionage and sentenced to execution

proxy battles.

In 1949, the year of the first Soviet nuclear test, the atomic arms race began, with both nations spending vast amounts on improving and enlarging nuclear stockpiles, possessed by the notion of trying to one up the other. It was against this backdrop of trying to ascertain each other's nuclear, military, diplomatic and economic plans while protecting their own that spies became some of the most valuable assets in play.

DECEPTION AND PARANOIA

The decision to betray secrets was (and is) rarely an easy or quick one, and once started it was difficult to go back to a normal life, ever. Living with the worry and anxiety of exposure never left individuals. In the West, it could mean imprisonment or, in the case of some like the Rosenbergs (*see page 31*), the electric chair; in the East, it invariably meant a bullet to the back of the head.

Trying to find out what your adversary is going to do before they do it; trying to understand what is happening around the globe; and trying to be in a position to influence and exert your national objectives are the ultimate goals of an intelligence organisation. This was a game of deception and paranoia, with dedicated counterintelligence staff trying to look out for both recruiters and those recruited. At its heart was a battle for information, to know what the other side was up to.

> **"Spying might appear morally, ethically and legally questionable, but there were rules"**

While this activity might appear to be morally, ethically or legally questionable, the intelligence agencies did adhere to certain 'rules'. For example, what do you do when an enemy spy falls into your hands? Executing an agent that has betrayed your own side might be ▶

ALAMY X1, COURTESY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM X1, GETTY X3, SHUTTERSTOCK X1

DANJAQ, LLC AND MGM X1, GETTY IMAGES X1, SHUTTERSTOCK X1

an idea, but that did not mean you acted in such a callous manner towards your opponents. Soviet and American intelligence officials did not attack their counterparts. Stealing information was fair game, but physical violence was rare. These rules were unwritten and ungoverned, but important nonetheless and number one amongst them was a certain sense of respect and etiquette.

If an American was caught spying in the Soviet Union, the routine was to declare them 'persona non grata' (person not appreciated) and send them back to the US. This was a practice mirrored around the world the biggest expulsion by Britain was in 1971 when the UK kicked out 105 Russian officials.

This mutual respect not only extended to the individuals and organisations themselves, but in the 'gentlemanly' exchange of captured agents, many of which took place on Glienicke Bridge in Germany, which connects West Berlin and Potsdam. This was the perfect location for a spy exchange, literally spanning the Cold War divide. In the days of the Soviet Union, one side terminated in the Western bloc, one in the Eastern, so crossing over was both physically and metaphorically significant.

> **"Glienicke Bridge was perfect for an exchange, literally spanning the Cold War divide"**

KEEPING THE WAR COLD

The biggest question is whether the lives, billions spent, and huge amount of time and effort made a difference. To put it another way, did spies stop the Cold War from boiling over into physical conflict? The closest we might get to an answer may be Major-General Dmitri Polyakov, a man whose actions – according to former CIA director James Woolsey – "didn't just help [the West] win the Cold War, it kept the Cold War from becoming hot." Polyakov was a general in the Soviet military intelligence agency, GRU, codenamed Top Hat by the FBI, who became an agent in 1961. His trove of intelligence included the names of US military officers spying for the Soviets, missile specs and tangible evidence of a rift emerging between the Soviets and China, the latter prompting US President Richard Nixon to re-establish diplomatic relations with China in the early 1970s. But in the mid-1980s, Top Hat fell silent.

It would not be until 1990 that the communist state paper *Pravda* reported that Polyakov had been executed two years earlier. At first, it was thought that he had been betrayed by Ames, every bit as prolific a mole as Polyakov himself, but in 2001 the FBI unmasked one of its operatives, Robert Hanssen, as another Soviet mole.

It is one thing to look at individuals, operations and events to judge the role played by spies, but completely different to look at it across the evolution of the Cold War and throughout the world. At times the role of intelligence was absolutely crucial; at others it made no difference. What can be said is that leaders relied on their intelligence

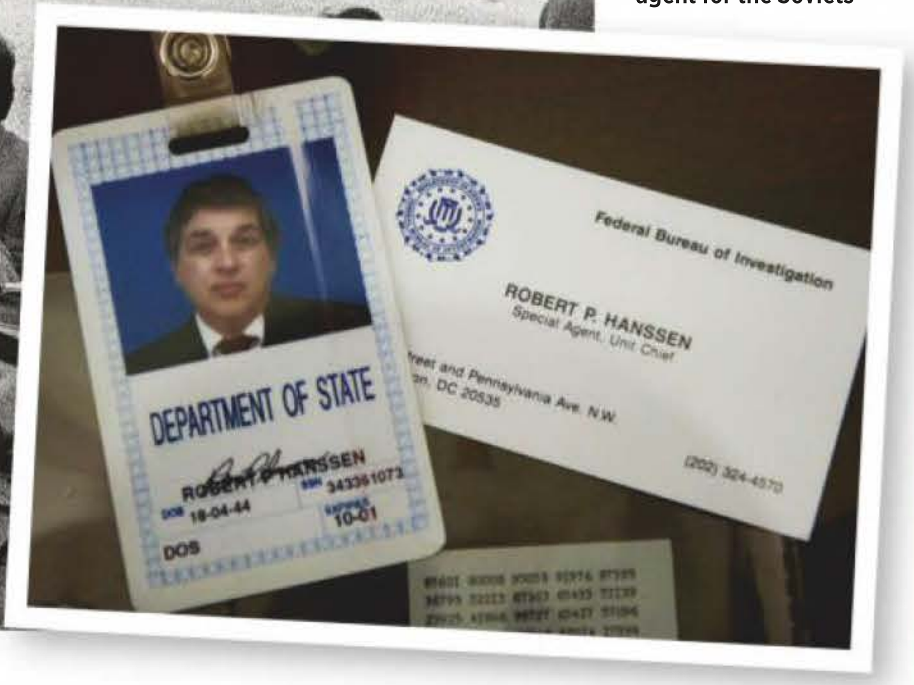
DID YOU KNOW?

THE TRUTH WILL OUT

In the 1990s, East Germans were given access to files on them made by the Stasi, one of the most effective Cold War spy agencies. Many found they had been betrayed by a partner, relative or a neighbour.

LEFT: An exchange of spies at the Glienicke Bridge, perversely, could be well covered by the media

BELOW: The pass and FBI card of Robert Hanssen, a hugely successful double agent for the Soviets



agencies: budgets rarely shrank, agencies rarely disappeared, and intelligence chiefs were rarely out of the leaders' offices. As the world became more complex, the ability to gather information became ever more indispensable.

MICHAEL GOODMAN is Professor of Intelligence and International Affairs, Head of the Department of War Studies and Dean of Research Impact at King's College London

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

Spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean are discussed in *Cold War Confidential* on BBC Radio 4: *bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06j6665*

WATCH

James Bond 007: No Time to Die will air in cinemas later this year

READ

Find out more about the historical inspirations behind James Bond in the April issue of *BBC History Magazine* – on sale now

IS JAMES BOND ANYTHING LIKE THE REAL SPIES?

Spies depend on secrecy so it needed a fictional agent to bring the world of espionage out of the shadows

There are few types of people more dramatically portrayed than spies, be they from the Cold War, modern espionage agencies or works of fiction. From James Bond to Jason Bourne, television, films and books have embraced the world of spies. Yet what is the reality? One of the first questions often asked of British intelligence agency MI6, the real-life organisation that James Bond fictionally represents, is whether its officers have a 'licence to kill'. The answer, unsurprisingly, is no. Real-life Bonds don't carry guns, smash outrageously expensive fast cars on alpine roads and fritter away millions of pounds at French casinos. There is no real 00 section, either. But in every great story, there has to be an element of truth. The spies of MI6 do carry out tasks for 'Queen and country', there is a Q Branch that develops gadgets, and they do travel to all corners of the globe much like 007.

302

Units of alcohol drunk over the 24 films so far. the most popular being not a martini, shaken not stirred, but champagne.

72

Different types of gun used by Bond in the films. His weapon of choice is a Walther PPK, which appears in 22 instalments.

219

The number of people who have portrayed Bond in film, radio, television, audiobooks, video games and as stunt men (but not including stand-ins).

1/3

Just under one-third of the women with whom Bond has a relationship meet a grisly end.

24

Times (so far) that 007 says "Bond, James Bond". Creator Ian Fleming said he wanted to give the spy as mundane a name as possible.

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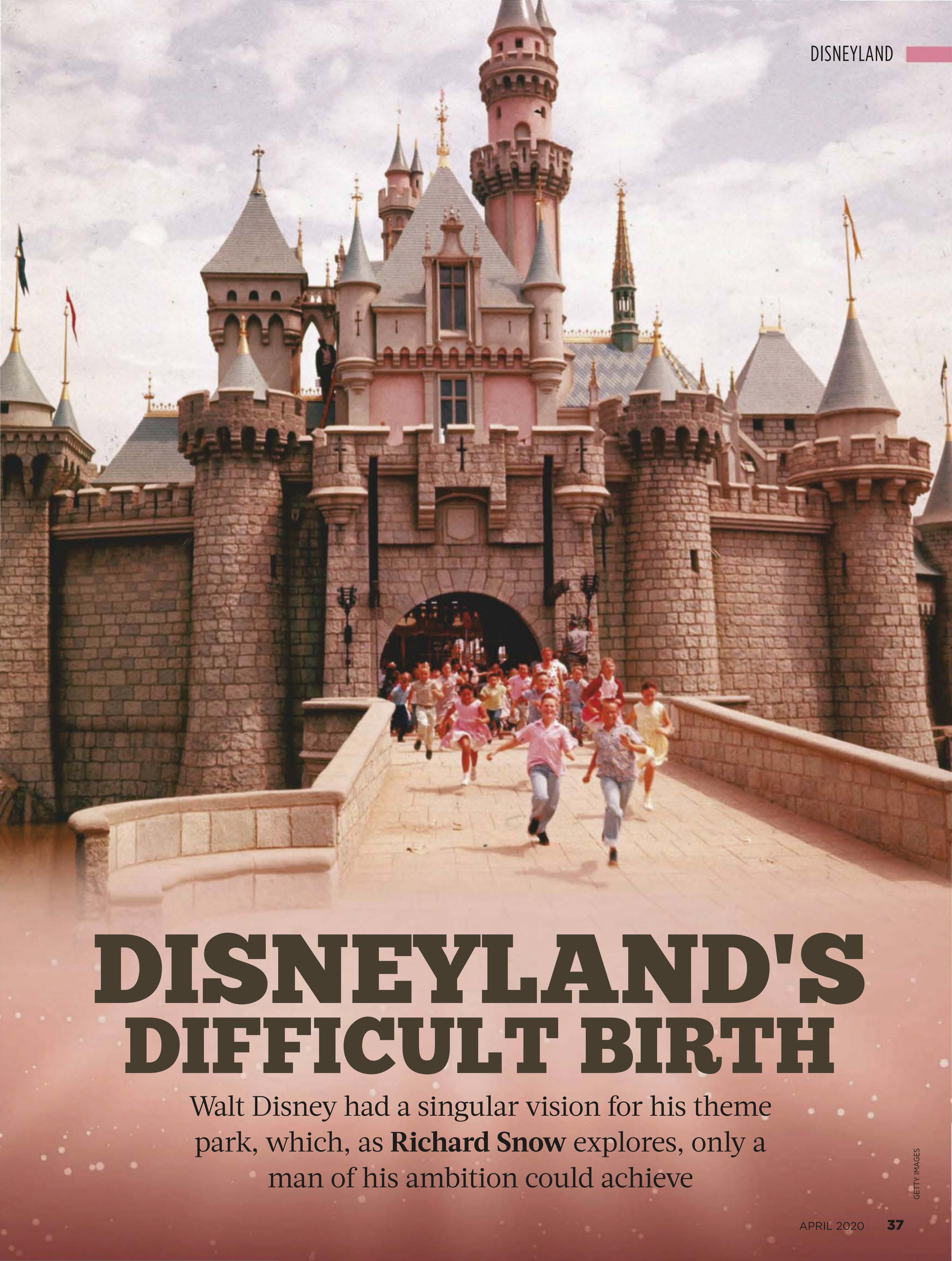


DISNEYLAND'S DIFFICULT BIRTH

Walt Disney had a singular vision for his theme park, which, as **Richard Snow** explores, only a man of his ambition could achieve

GETTY IMAGES

One Saturday morning, on 22 September 1953, Herb Ryman was at work on a painting when his phone rang. He answered and heard the instantly recognisable voice of Walt Disney say: "Hi, Herbie. I'm over here at the studio." On a Saturday? Ryman remarked. That made Disney testy. "Yes, it's my studio and I can be here anytime I want." Then he changed his tone. "I wonder if you could come over here. Just come the way you are." Ryman "was curious and flattered that he picked up the phone and called me. I had no idea what he wanted."

He also had reason to be a bit nervous. A first rate illustrator who painted with dash and sparkle, he could create moody evocations of fantastic places: fairy tale forests, future cities, enchanted castles. Disney had hired him away from Metro Goldwyn Mayer in 1938, but after nearly a decade in his studio Ryman had decamped for 20th Century Fox.

"I had deserted Walt, which was a very criminal act (or at least he thought it was)." Still, a summons from Walt Disney was not easily flouted. Ryman went at once. Disney met him and shook his hand. "Hi, Herbie," he said. "We're going to build an amusement park."

"That's interesting." Ryman said. "Where are you going to build it?"

"Well, we were going to do it across the street, but now it's gotten too big. We're going to look for a place."

"What are you going to call it?"

"I'm going to call it Disneyland."

"Well, that's a good name. What is it that you want to see me about?"

Disney explained that the project had been germinating in his mind for a long time. Disneyland would be wholly unlike any other amusement park ever built. And it would cost plenty far more than Disney could afford but he'd had an idea of how to raise the money. While the obstreperous new medium of television had alarmed most moviemakers, Disney saw valuable possibilities for advertising, and raising capital.

On Monday, Disney's brother Roy was going to New York to pitch a Walt Disney television series. He expected a warm reception as there had been a good deal of interest in a Disney TV show, but there was a catch. Any station that signed on for the show would also have to pay for the park.

Disney fully realised that TV executives would not be eager to enter the faded and ramshackle outdoor amusement industry. Still, the show was bound to be good, and Roy would have with him an impressive, powerfully persuasive rendering of an aerial view of the proposed park.

Intrigued, Ryman asked to see the drawing. "You're going to do it," Disney replied.

GETTY IMAGES X2

The artist was appalled. "No. I'm not. You're not going to call me on Saturday morning at 10am and expect me to do a masterpiece that Roy could take and get the money. It will embarrass me and it will embarrass you."

Disney started to plead, according to his visitor, "like a little boy who wants something". With tears in his eyes, "Walt paced back and forth. Then he went over into the corner and he turned his head around with his back to me and said coaxingly: 'Will you do it if I stay here with you?'"

Ryman gave in. He started to draw and Disney started to talk. "This is a magic place. The important thing is the castle [the studio was in the early stages of filming *Sleeping Beauty*]. Make it tall enough to be seen from all around the park. It's got to keep people oriented. And I want a hub at the end of Main Street, where all the other lands will radiate from, like the spokes in a wheel.

"I've been studying the way people go to museums and other entertainment places," Disney pushed on. "Everybody's got tired feet. I don't want that to happen in this place. I want a place for people to sit down and where old folks can say: 'You kids run on. I'll meet you there in a half hour.' Disneyland is going to be a place where you can't get lost or tired unless you want to."

Ryman sketched a rough triangle on a big sheet of tissue – 109 by 178cm – and started to fill it in with hills and rivers. He added Mississippi riverboats and an ancient high-sterned square-rigger on the waterways, a castle with a carousel in the courtyard, and, running from the park's single entrance to the castle, a broad street lined with fanciful late-Victorian buildings. He blocked out various 'lands' with their potential names: Frontier Country, Holiday Land, Mickey Mouse Club, Fantasy Land, Lilliputian Land, World of Tomorrow,

A stubborn perfectionist, Disney (*far left*) was heavily involved in the design of the park and its showpiece, the Sleeping Beauty Castle

WHAT WAS WALT LIKE?

To his adoring public he was Uncle Walt, but he was a shrewd, sombre businessman through and through

Disney could be all smiles for the cameras, but far from approachable to his employees

The amiable, avuncular Walt Disney that millions saw on television was quite different from the austere figure that his employees knew. A reporter interviewing Disney not long after the park opened was surprised to find "a tall, sombre man who appeared to be under the lash of some private demon" and "was about as whimsical as Michelangelo".

He was stingy with praise, hated a joke, and was close to only a few of his lieutenants. Everyone who worked for him came to dread a particular storm warning: "We all knew," said one, "if he raised that left eyebrow, you knew your ass was in trouble."

A demanding and irritable boss, Disney nonetheless was open to suggestions, which proved invaluable while improvising his park. He was capable of acts of true generosity and kindness, but his screen personality in actuality chimed more closely with that of his brother, Roy. Walt, said one executive, "could relax and laugh, but he was always driven. Roy could laugh real quick." An animator remembered that "you could put your arm around Roy's shoulder, too, and did. Not with Walt."

Disney is survived by a reputation darker than one of mere authoritarian crankiness, though: that he was an anti-Semite. Whatever the genesis of this rumour – it may have been born in the brief yet ugly studio strike of 1941 – there is scant evidence to support it. Disney fired some of his lawyers when he overheard them disparaging a pair of his songwriters for being Jewish; he was happy to have his two daughters date Jewish boys; and he was the 1955 choice of the Beverly Hills chapter of B'nai B'rith as 'Man of the Year'.

When his brilliant Jewish head of merchandising, Kay Kamen – who laid the absurdly successful Mickey Mouse watch on the altar of civilisation – heard the rumour, he scoffed. Disney's company, he said, "had more Jews in it than the Book of Leviticus".

> **"Disney had spent his first million dollars, and hocked his life insurance, on the park before a single ride had been designed"**

True-Life Adventure Land.

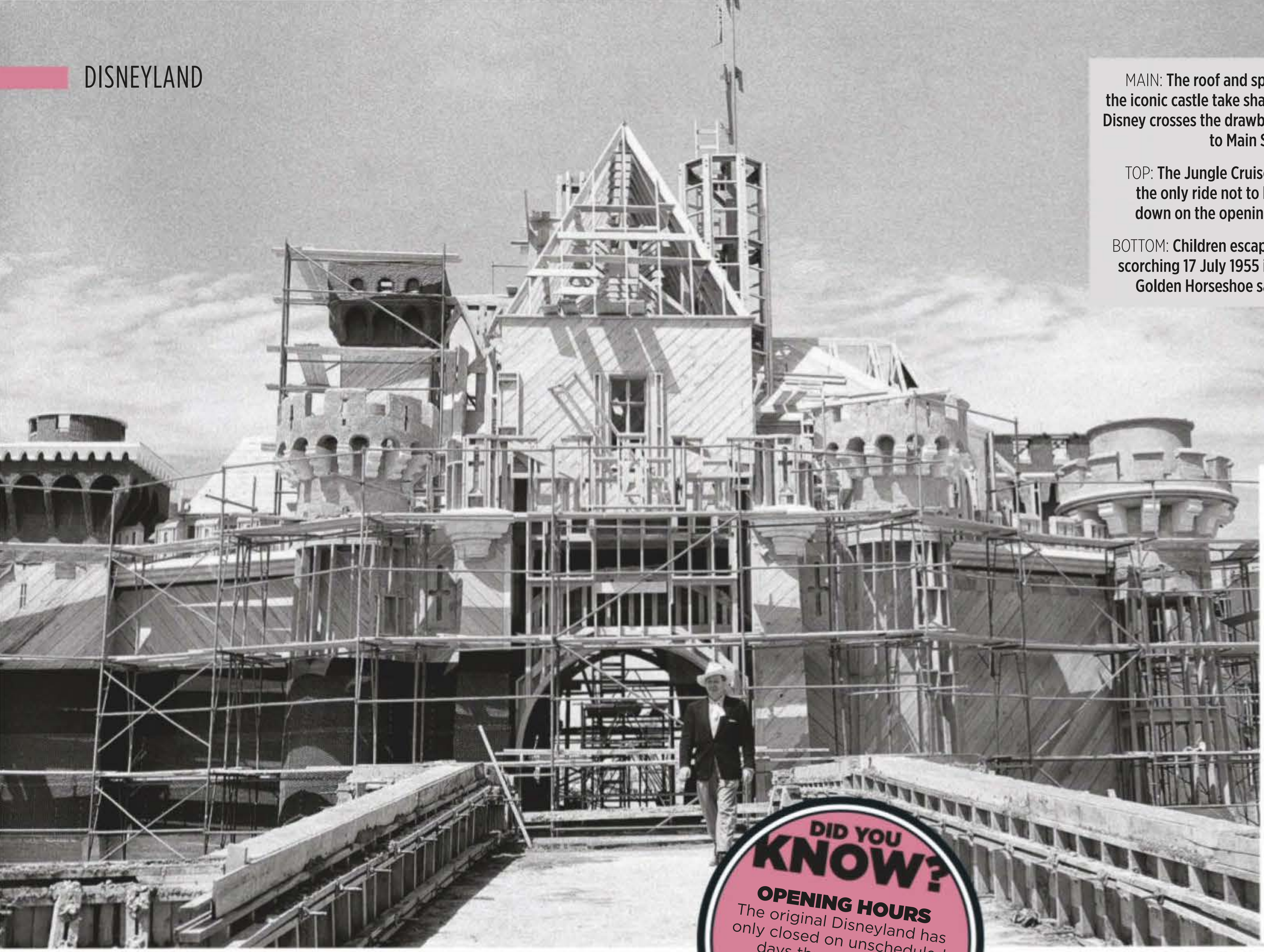
Fuelled by milkshakes and tuna fish sandwiches, the two worked through the weekend in the blue haze of Disney's Chesterfield cigarettes, until, 40 hours after Disney's phone call, Ryman set down his carbon pencil. The two men looked at the finished work.

What they had conjured from Disney's vision and Ryman's patient skill was remarkably close to what, two years and many millions of dollars later, would rise from a patch of farmland to tease the imagination of the entire world.

Frontier stockade and space port, jungle river and caravel, they were all marshalled together within a steel border demarcated by the salient instruction Disney had given his artist at the outset: "Herbie, I just want it to look like nothing else in the world. And it should be surrounded by a train."

Disney's radical amusement park is the subject of several creation myths, but it indisputably began with a steam train. By the late 1940s, Disney had brought animated cartoons from a coarse novelty to a powerful new art an industry really but he had grown increasingly tired of them, still embittered by a 1941 strike at his studio and worn down by the four years of World War II he'd spent producing films with titles like *Four Methods of Flush Riveting*. He began spending time with an elaborate miniature railroad he'd built in the yard of his home, only to one day abruptly walk away from it. He was going to do this, as he put it, "for real".

For real meant the intricate city state he had Ryman conjure up. Disney found it a hard sell, especially since it kept growing. At first he'd envisioned the park as occupying an acre or so next to his Burbank studio and costing perhaps a million dollars. But all too soon it was looking like 10 million, and he'd hired a firm called the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) to find a site. SRI had lit on 160 acres of orange groves in a backwater city called Anaheim, some 30 miles south of Los Angeles. Disney had spent his first million, and hocked his life insurance, before a single ride had been designed. ▶



MAIN: **The roof and spire of the iconic castle take shape as Disney crosses the drawbridge to Main Street**

TOP: **The Jungle Cruise was the only ride not to break down on the opening day**

BOTTOM: **Children escape the scorching 17 July 1955 in the Golden Horseshoe saloon**

DID YOU KNOW?

OPENING HOURS

The original Disneyland has only closed on unscheduled days three times: the national day of mourning for JFK in 1963, after the 1994 Northridge earthquake, and on 9/11.

◀ Ryman's bravura drawing failed to move either of the two major television studios, CBS and NBC, but the struggling American Broadcasting Company (its rivals claimed its initials stood for 'The Almost Broadcasting Company') needed Disney as much as he needed it. They struck a deal, which demanded a killing forced draft schedule: just a year from ground breaking in July 1954 to opening day, which would be heralded with the largest live TV special yet produced.

Every attraction had to be made up out of whole cloth no familiar off the-shelf rides and all of them presented unique problems. The Jungle Cruise, for example, required that two brothers, Bill and Jack Evans, who prospered selling exotic plants to movie stars, whip up a patch of greenery that looked as if it had stood since the last Ice Age. When away from the site, the brothers spent their time chasing the new highways creeping south from LA in order to snatch trees away from the bulldozers.

The cruise, of course, also required a river so there was another difficulty. The soil, said Bill Evans, "was sand, it was almost ball bearing sand," and it drank up water as soon as it was poured. This problem was solved by Disney's construction boss, the formidably capable Rear Admiral Joe Fowler, who had run all the West Coast shipyards during the war. He came up with a mixture of clay that sealed the Jungle Cruise riverbed and the Rivers of America, for which he supplied a five-eighths scale Mississippi sternwheel riverboat, a craft that hadn't been built in the US for half a century. It joined the newly built steam trains that would circle the park.

> **"Disney had to choose between drinking fountains or toilets: he opted for the latter"**

Everything was delayed by Disney's obdurate perfectionism. One day, he was walking the tracks of the railroad growing increasingly dissatisfied. Something was the matter, and he couldn't figure out what. Then it suddenly struck him: the ballast. The tracks would be carrying three-fifths-scale locomotives, but the rocks of the roadbed were full size. The effect may have been only slightly disorienting, yet that was enough for Disney. He ordered the ballast re-crushed.

The same restlessness afflicted him on Main Street, the exuberantly ornamental turn-of-the-(last)-century thoroughfare that led to Fantasy, Tomorrow and all the other lands. Something was unwelcoming. This time it turned out to be the street corners. They were cut at right angles, which he considered to be too severe. He had all of them rounded.

The work went forward in a welter of revisions, complicated by trade union troubles. As time ran short, a plumbers' strike meant that Disney had to choose between installing drinking fountains or toilets. He opted for the latter: "People can drink Pepsi-Cola," he said, "but they can't pee in the street."

As opening day approached, the army of workmen was then joined by dozens of television cameras borrowed from stations all across the country. Construction and film crews were mutually hostile, what with getting in each other's way. The workmen moved already laid cable to put down track for rides; cameramen set up shop in half-finished buildings. When a segment director berated a worker for interfering with his vantage point the man replied:

GETTY IMAGES X1, SHUTTERSTOCK X1, TOPFOTO X1

"Don't worry. You'll have plenty of action to shoot. We'll be pouring cement."

They were still pouring it when Disney went to bed at four in the morning on opening day – doubtless worrying about possibly facing the greatest public humiliation in show business history, and the fact that his park had ended up costing $17 million ($160 million, or £125 million, today).

The TV special, *Dateline Disneyland*, aired on the afternoon of 17 July 1955. The US contained 169 million citizens at the time, and 90 million of them watched it. That was 54.2 percent of the population, a larger proportion than would see the Moon landing 14 years later. Disney played the relaxed and affable host, and the immensely complex show went off with few visible mishaps.

Behind the cameras, it was a different story, an event that every employee who was there would forever remember as 'Black Sunday'. To start, while the park had issued 11,000 invitations, more than double that number showed up. The temperature climbed to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit and stayed there. The newly poured asphalt sucked the shoes off women's feet. Food started to run out before noon. Every single ride save the Jungle Cruise broke down.

Continues on p44

DISNEYLAND IN NUMBERS

Walt Disney's park had an impressive first year, and it only got bigger from there…

18
Attractions on offer at the park on opening day – there are now 51

3.6 MILLION
People who visited Disneyland in its first year of operation

84 MILLION
Mickey Mouse ears sold since opening – at least!

14
Of the original attractions are still running

$1
Adult admission fee when it opened

200
Feral cats said to roam the park, mostly at night

11,000
Lightbulbs outlining the buildings on Main Street

4
Babies born in Disneyland

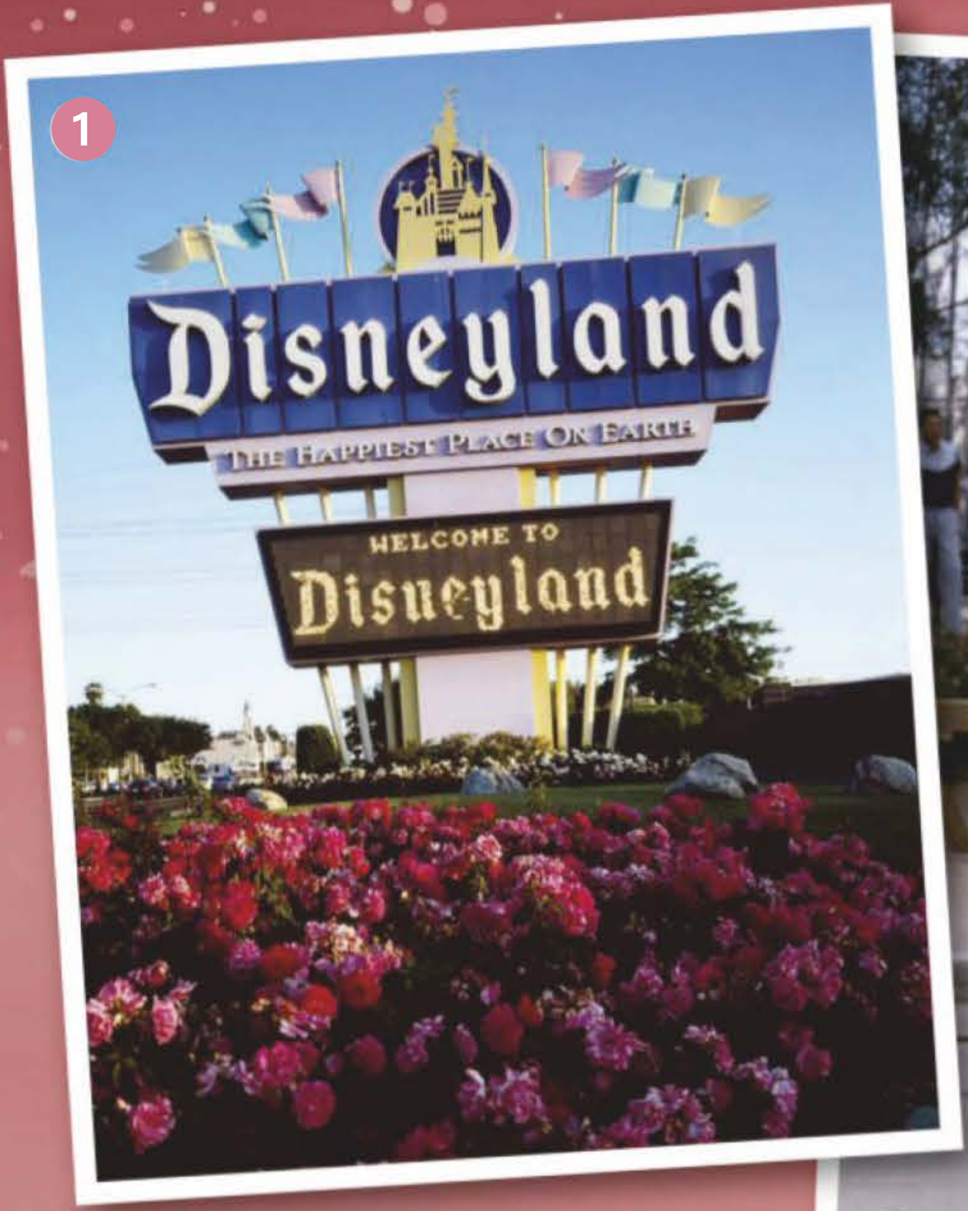
23m
The height of the Sleeping Beauty Castle

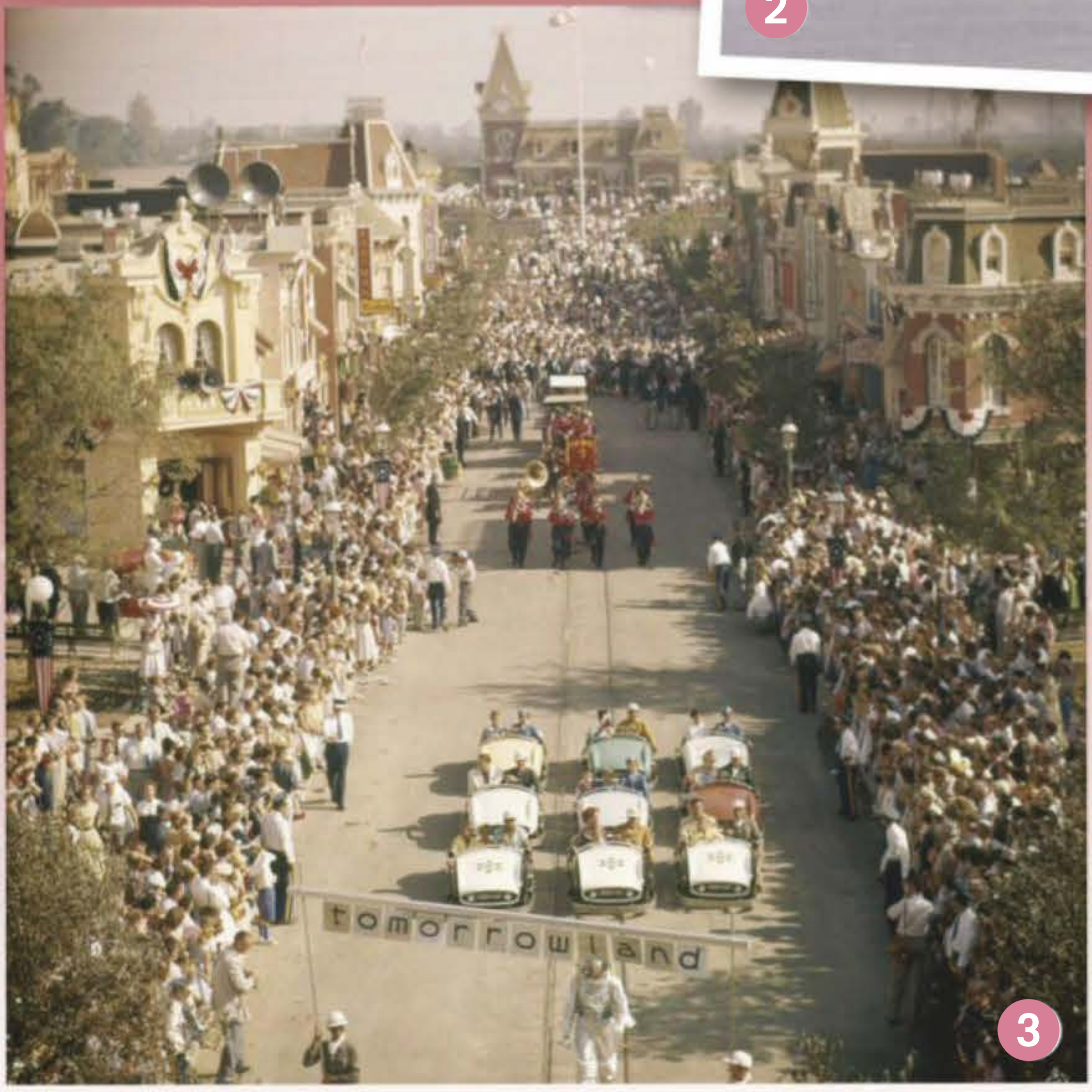
$10 MILLION
Revenue in its first full year

800
Mostly non-indigenous species of plants in the park on opening day – from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, China and Japan

DISNEYLAND'S OPENING DAY

Teething problems and last-minute construction may have made 17 July 1955 better known as 'Black Sunday', not that the thousands of (mostly young) visitors seemed to notice





1. Visitors on 17 July 1955, are the first to be welcomed to 'the happiest place on Earth', a park designed to be full of colour and that special brand of Disney magic

2. Children race to every ride as Disneyland has more guests than expected. The day had been by invitation only, but thousands bought counterfeit tickets or simply snuck in

3. A parade makes its way down Main Street, featuring aspects from each land, including the futuristic bumper cars of Tomorrowland

4. Young racers on the Autopia track; despite the bumpers, constant collisions mean the cars have to be changed frequently

5. In Frontierland, children take an old-timey ride on live mules through the 'Painted Desert'

6. Disneyland would not have been complete without trains, including a replica of Casey Jr from *Dumbo*

7. The original Mad Tea Party ride had no speed restrictions on how fast the teacups could spin

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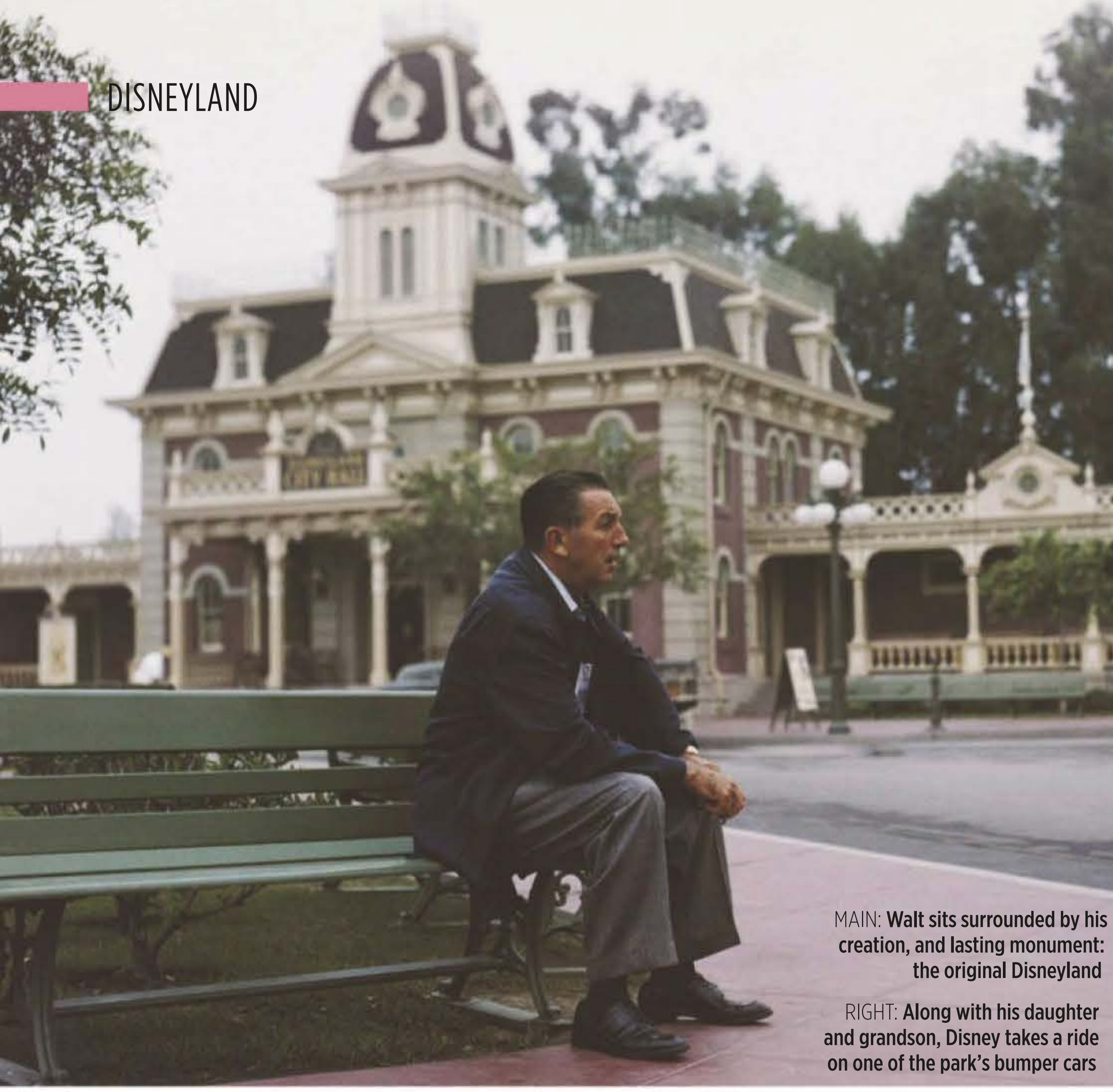
4
space bar
space bar
RICHFIELD

5

6
CASEY JR.
C.Jr.R.R.

7



MAIN: **Walt sits surrounded by his creation, and lasting monument: the original Disneyland**

DISNEYLAND

RIGHT: **Along with his daughter and grandson, Disney takes a ride on one of the park's bumper cars**

Disney himself was spotted running an emergency supply of toilet paper to one of the restrooms. The press was savage. One headline set the tone when it decried "THE $17 MILLION DOLLAR PEOPLE TRAP THAT MICKEY MOUSE BUILT," where "irate adults cursed Mickey, Minnie, Pluto, Snow White and all the Seven Dwarfs."

Disney set about damage control with all the stubborn vigour and imagination that got Disneyland built in the first place. His efforts were immeasurably helped by the park itself. Never mind Black Sunday, the nation was fascinated by this new attraction. People were flocking in: 161,657 in the first week, half a million during August, and the millionth visitor had stepped onto Main Street before September was out. The park's success was not in doubt.

> **"Disney himself was spotted running an emergency supply of toilet paper to one of the restooms"**

Disneyland's impact on the national conscious was immediate, and lasting. It had its detractors (one critic called its closely monitored pleasures "a small scale model of a perfect fascist regime"), but many agreed with the developer James W Rouse when he gave his keynote address to the Urban Design Conference at Harvard. "I hold a view that may be somewhat shocking to an audience as sophisticated as this: that the greatest piece of urban design in the United States today is Disneyland… I find more to learn in the standards that have been set and in the goals that have been achieved in the development of Disneyland than in any other piece of physical development in the country."

To date, more than 750 million people have gone to the original Disneyland. There are now 12 parks worldwide, but Anaheim's is the only one Walt – who died in 1966 just after turning 65 (killed by all those Chesterfield cigarettes) ever saw. And while the rest are larger and more elaborate, it is only in California that you can get a sense of the man.

The other parks are scrupulously planned and maintained. Yet the Disney touch is hard to find. The Main Street in Florida, for instance, has the same exuberant Beaux Arts buildings with exaggerated architectural details, but they are larger than their West Coast predecessors fun to look at, but lacking a playful intimacy.

The Latin inscription on Christopher Wren's monument in St Paul's reads: "If you seek his monument, look around you." So it is with the original Disneyland. If visitors are looking for the most enduring monument to Walt Disney, they have only to stand at the foot of Main Street, under the pastel ramparts of the *Sleeping Beauty* Castle, a building arguably as recognisable as the Eiffel Tower, and look around. ⊙

RICHARD SNOW is an American author and historian

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

BBC WORLD SERVICE

Hear memories of Disneyland's opening day on an episode of *Witness History*, on the BBC World Service: *www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00hshw6*

READ

Disney's Land: Walt Disney and the Invention of the Amusement Park That Changed the World, by Richard Snow (Scribner, 2019)

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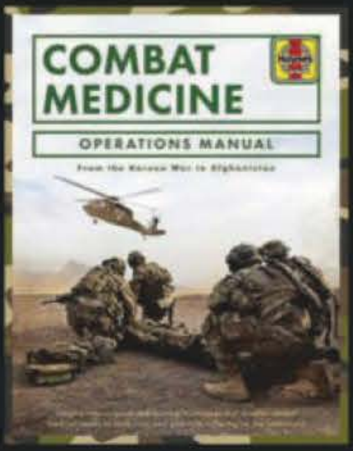
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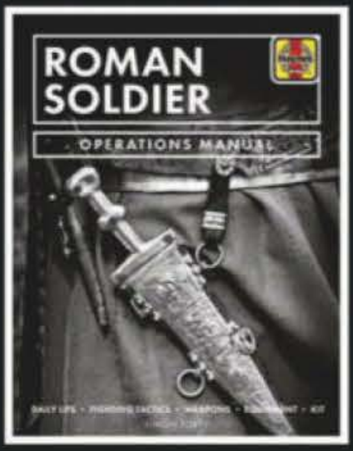
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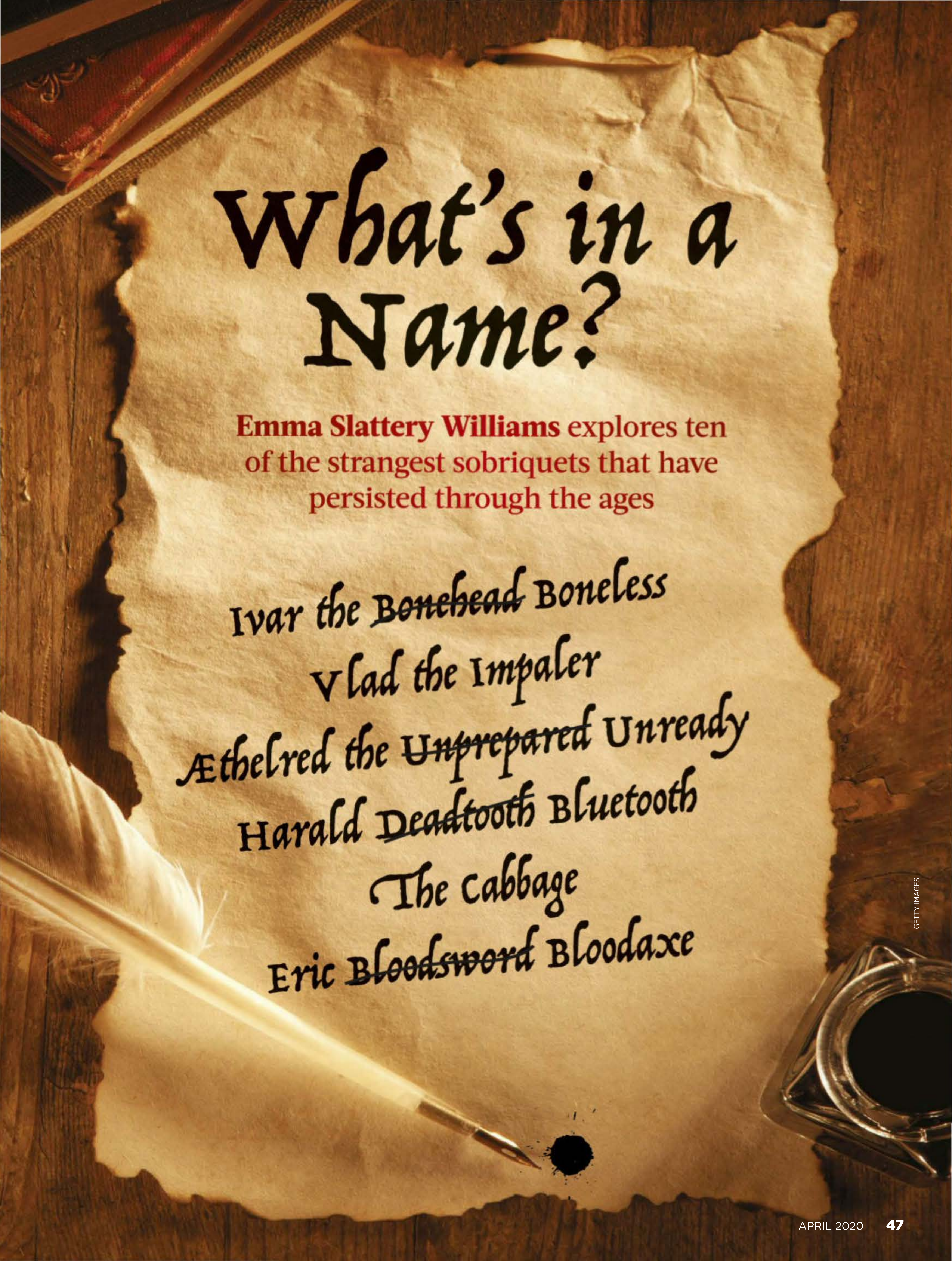

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What's in a Name?

Emma Slattery Williams explores ten of the strangest sobriquets that have persisted through the ages

Ivar the ~~Bonehead~~ Boneless

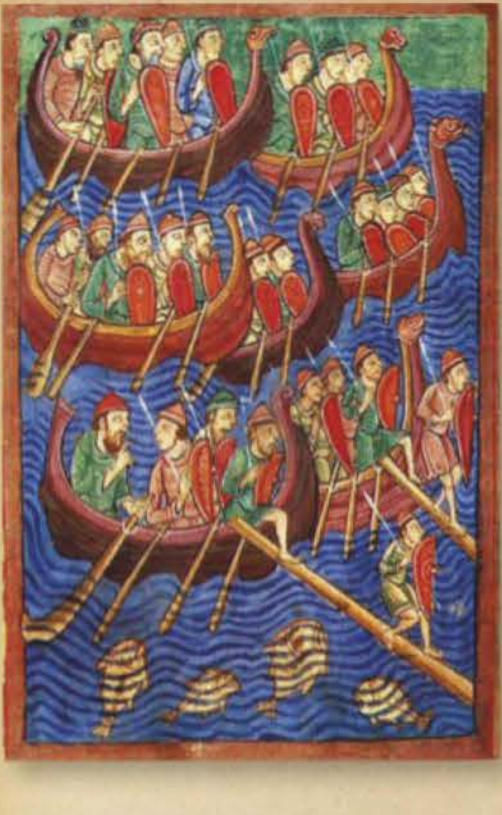
Vlad the Impaler

Æthelred the ~~Unprepared~~ Unready

Harald ~~Deadtooth~~ Bluetooth

The Cabbage

Eric ~~Bloodsword~~ Bloodaxe



Ivar the Boneless

Died cAD 873

One of the leaders of the Great Heathen Army that arrived in England in AD 865, Viking chieftain Ivar the Boneless may have been given his curious name after being born with a muscle or bone weakness or suffering an injury.

According to one legend, Ivar – said to be the son of legendary Viking king Ragnar Lodbrok – may have had his father to thank for his odd nickname. According to Icelandic saga *The Tale of Ragnar Lodbrok*, Ragnar's wife (a seer) cautioned her new husband to wait three nights before consummating their marriage. Ragnar ignored her warning; the result, so the tale goes, was Ivar, born 'boneless'. References to Ivar's 'bonelessness' are present in other Norse sagas but it's unclear what they refer to.

Constantine V the Dung-Named AD 718-775

Constantine V had many enemies, and they spread rumours that saddled him with the nickname 'the Dung-Named' – a slander born from the belief that he had defecated in the font during his baptism. Byzantine Emperor from AD 741 to 775, Constantine was an Iconoclast – someone opposed to the worship of religious images – and persecuted those who disagreed with him, especially monks. His detractors gave him the derogatory name Kopronymos (the Dung-Named) and it's stuck ever since.

Ivaylo of Bulgaria the Cabbage

Died 1281

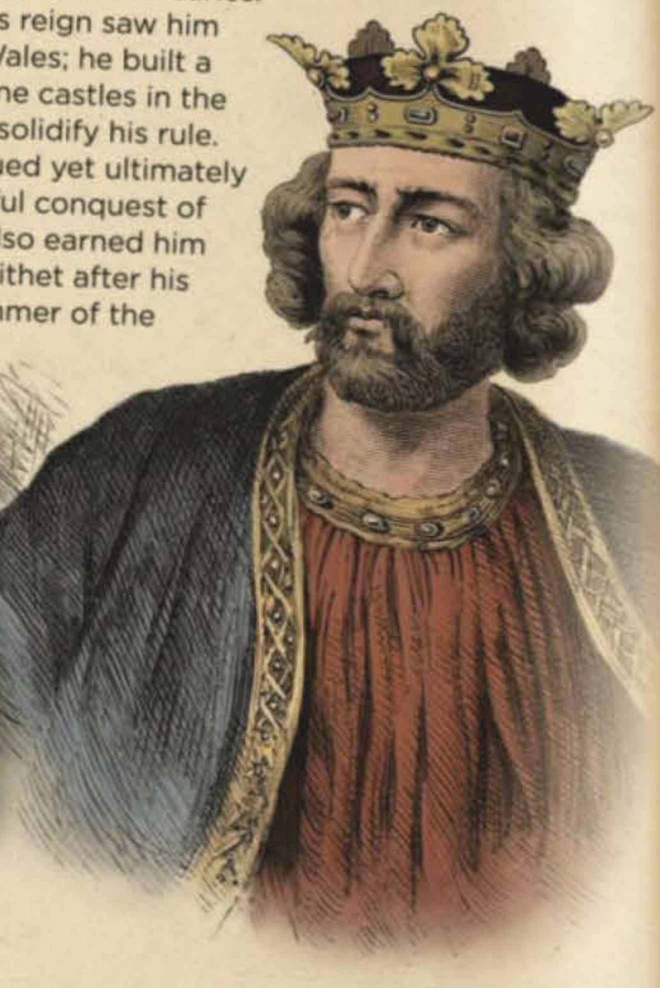
In 1277, a simple peasant overthrew Tsar Constantine I of the Second Bulgarian Empire and took his throne – earning, thanks to his humble beginnings, the names *Bardokva* (in Bulgarian) and *Lakhanas* (in Greek), which translate respectively as radish/lettuce and cabbage.

The empire had been suffering from invasions, economic problems and an emperor who had been semi-paralysed in an accident. Ivaylo, a farmer or swineherd, led an uprising of discontented peasants to victory against the Mongols – something the Tsar's forces had failed to do. He then turned his attention to Constantine himself. It's said that Ivaylo killed Constantine in a chariot, and was then accepted by the Bulgarian nobles as ruler – only to be killed a year later by the Mongols.

Edward I of England Longshanks 1239-1307

Edward I of England was an intimidating character, not just in policy and war, but also in appearance: at 6' 2", he was tall for a man of the 13th century, a fact that earned him the name 'Longshanks' in reference to his long legs. Edward's height also gave him an advantage as a swordsman, and he is said to have had a volatile temper that instilled fear in both his advisors and adversaries.

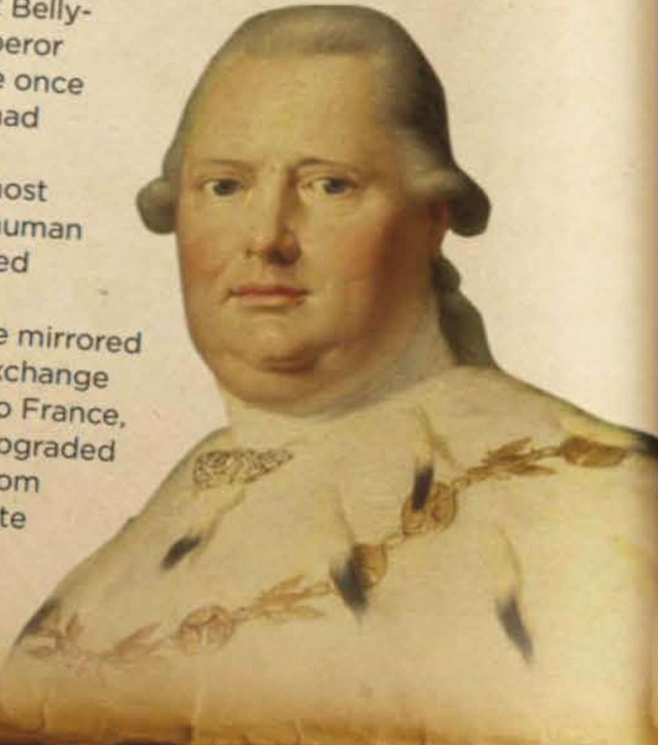
Edward's reign saw him conquer Wales; he built a ring of stone castles in the vicinity to solidify his rule. His continued yet ultimately unsuccessful conquest of Scotland also earned him another epithet after his death: Hammer of the Scots.



Frederick I of Württemberg the Great Belly-Gerent 1754-1816

Frederick I, the last Duke of Württemberg, in modern-day Germany, was 6' 11" and weighed more than 30st at his heaviest. Known as the 'Great Belly-Gerent', French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte once remarked that God had created Frederick to demonstrate the utmost extent to which the human skin could be stretched without bursting.

Frederick's vast size mirrored that of his realm. In exchange for providing troops to France, a grateful Napoleon upgraded Frederick's territory from a duchy to an electorate and then a kingdom, doubling it in size.



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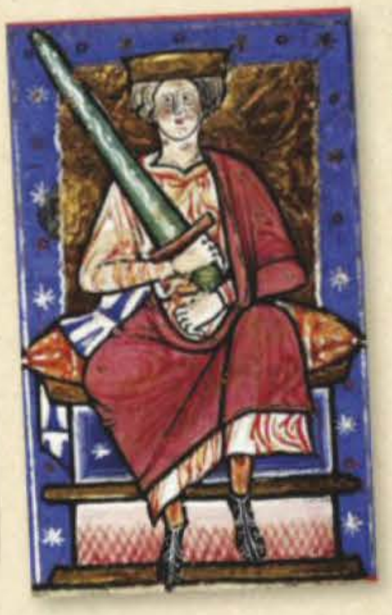
Harald Bluetooth

cAD 910–c987

Bluetooth is a term now recognised across the world as a form of wireless technology that united the computing and cellular industries. But it was also the name of a 10th-century king of Denmark and Norway: Harald Bluetooth, who unified Denmark, conquered Norway and is said to have had a dead, discoloured blue/grey tooth. The Bluetooth logo is made up of the Scandinavian runes of Harald's initials.

Eric Bloodaxe cAD 885–954

It's believed that 10th-century Norwegian ruler Eric Bloodaxe was an ambitious man who fiercely fought anyone in his path to power. His nickname, Bloodaxe, refers to his vicious reputation of raiding and, more literally, to the bloodline of his family. Eric ensured his succession, and control over Norway, by murdering his brothers – one Latin text refers to him as *fratris interfector* (brother-killer). He was later ousted by a surviving brother and fled to England where, in c948, he became King of Northumbria – it's unclear whether he invaded or was invited. Eric was killed in battle in 954, bringing to an end independent Viking rule in the region.



Æthelred the Unready c966–1016

King of the English from AD 978 to 1013, and then again from 1014 to 1016, Æthelred had the unfortunate luck of being known as 'Unready'. The name comes from the Old English *Unræd*, meaning evil counsel or bad plan, and was a pun on his first name, which means noble counsel.

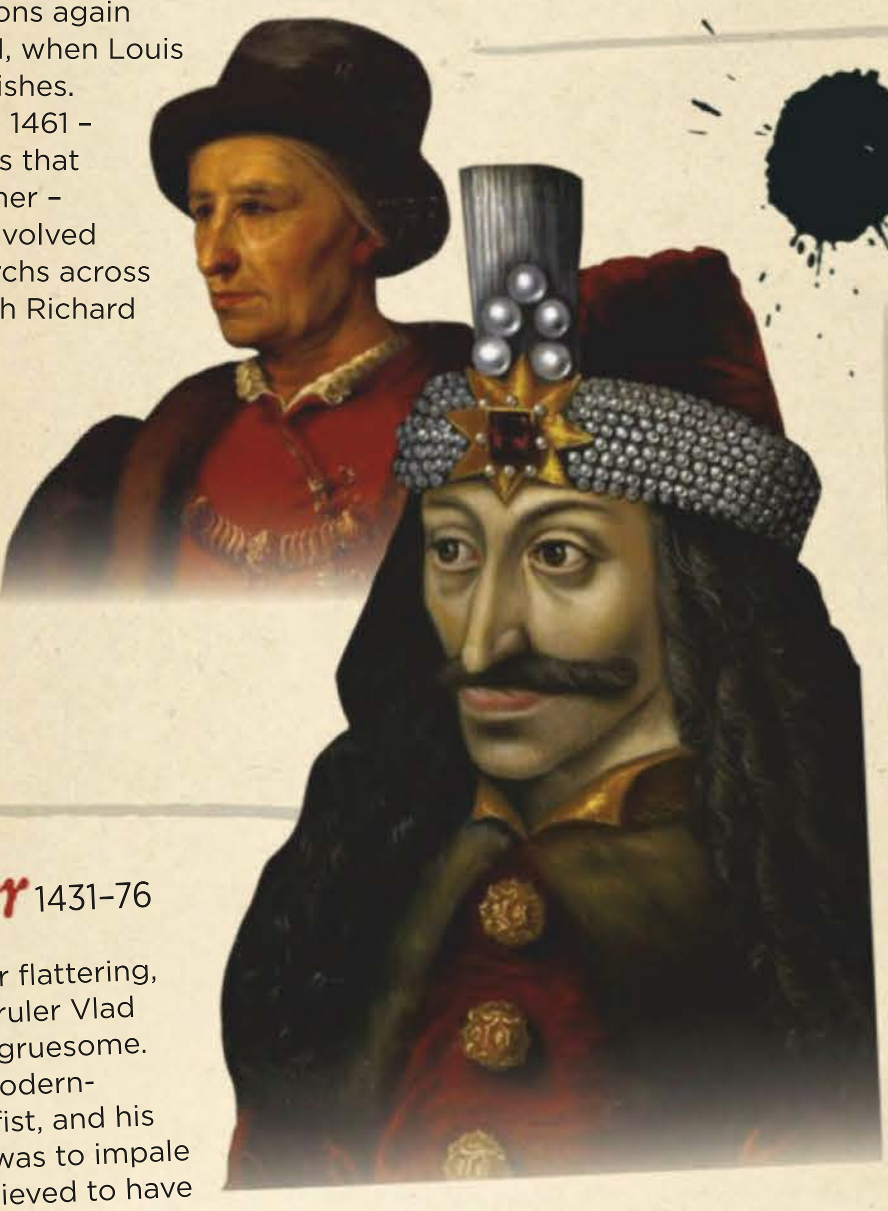
Æthelred's rule is mainly remembered for its ineffectiveness against Danish invasions which, by 1013, had lead to Sweyn Forkbeard being accepted as King of England. Æthelred did get a reprieve on Sweyn's death when he was invited to return to the throne by the Anglo-Saxon nobles, on the condition that he ruled more fairly than he had before – though that didn't stop Sweyn's son, the future King Cnut, from continuing to attack.

Louis XI of France the Universal Spider

1423–83

Louis XI of France was often referred to as a spider, as it seems he loved nothing more than spinning webs of political intrigue. In 1440, Louis was embroiled in a plot to oust his father, Charles VII, and take the throne himself. The plot failed and Louis was forced to submit to his father – tensions again arose between the pair in 1451, when Louis married against his father's wishes.

Louis finally became king in 1461 – amid unsubstantiated rumours that he may have poisoned his father – and henceforth persistently involved himself in the affairs of monarchs across Europe, including plotting with Richard Neville, the Earl of Warwick, to overthrow Edward IV of England in favour of Henry VI during the Wars of the Roses. Louis was also known for developing royal postal roads, which formed a web-like communications network across all of France – perfect for keeping an eye on everything going on in his kingdom.



Vlad the Impaler 1431–76

Some nicknames are funny or flattering, but 15th-century Wallachian ruler Vlad the Impaler's was literal and gruesome. He ruled his principality in modern-day Romania with a bloody fist, and his favourite form of execution was to impale people on stakes. Vlad is believed to have inflicted this ghastly end on countless victims, once leaving a battlefield littered with thousands of impaled soldiers as a warning. His cruel reputation and sobriquet of Dracula – from his father's own moniker, Dracul, meaning 'dragon' – are believed to have inspired novelist Bram Stoker when he was writing his famous vampire novel.

Best of the rest

Richard the Lionheart

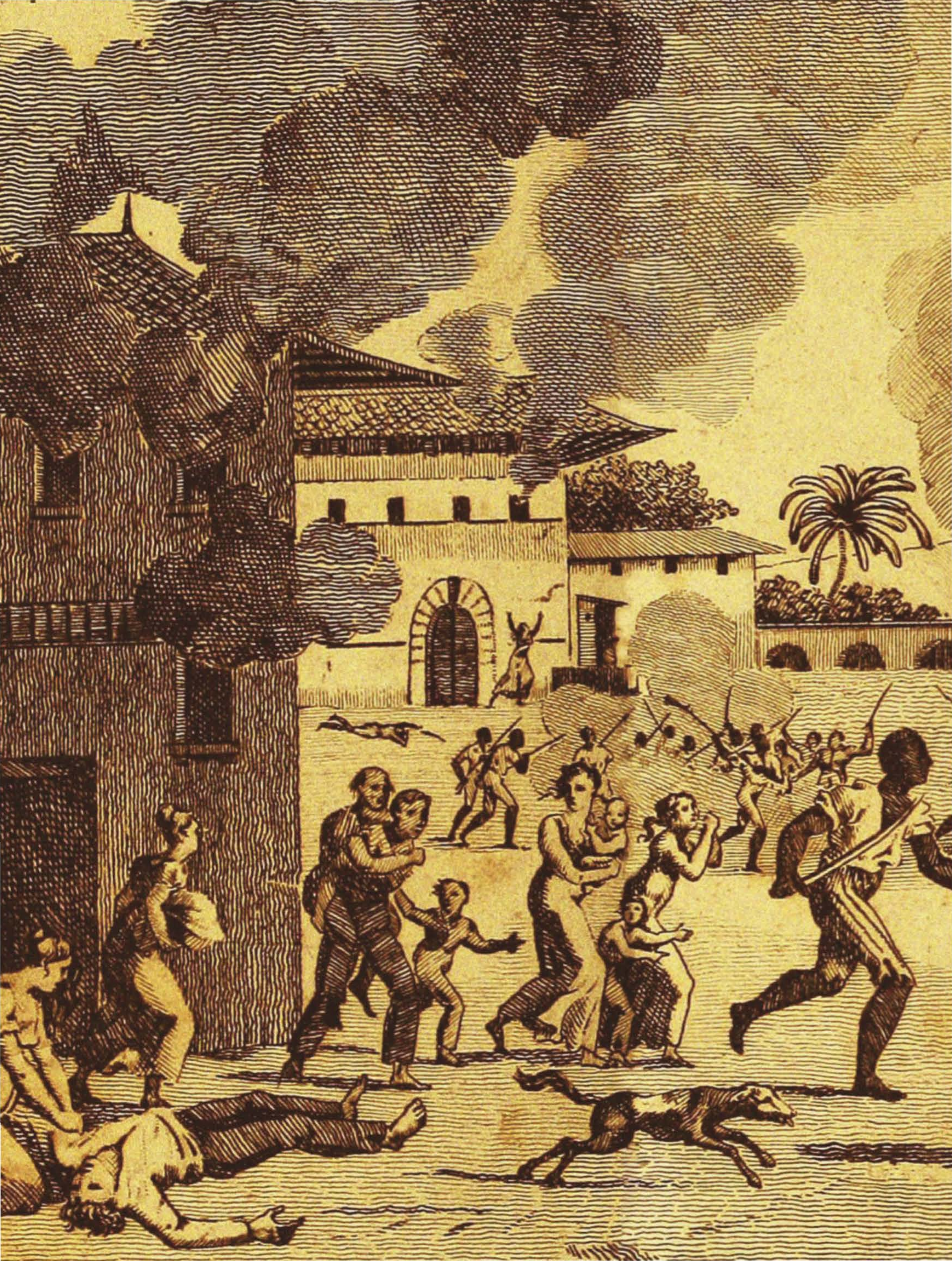
This 12th-century King of England is best remembered for fighting in the Crusades, as well as for popping up in a number of Robin Hood films. Richard's nickname stemmed from his reputation as a fearless warrior, but this probably meant little to his people. He spent little more than six months in England during his ten-year reign.

Wilfred the Hairy

Count of Barcelona as well as other regions of Spain, this 9th-century Catalonian hero's nickname states the obvious. A Latin chronicle described him as being hairy in places a man should not be.

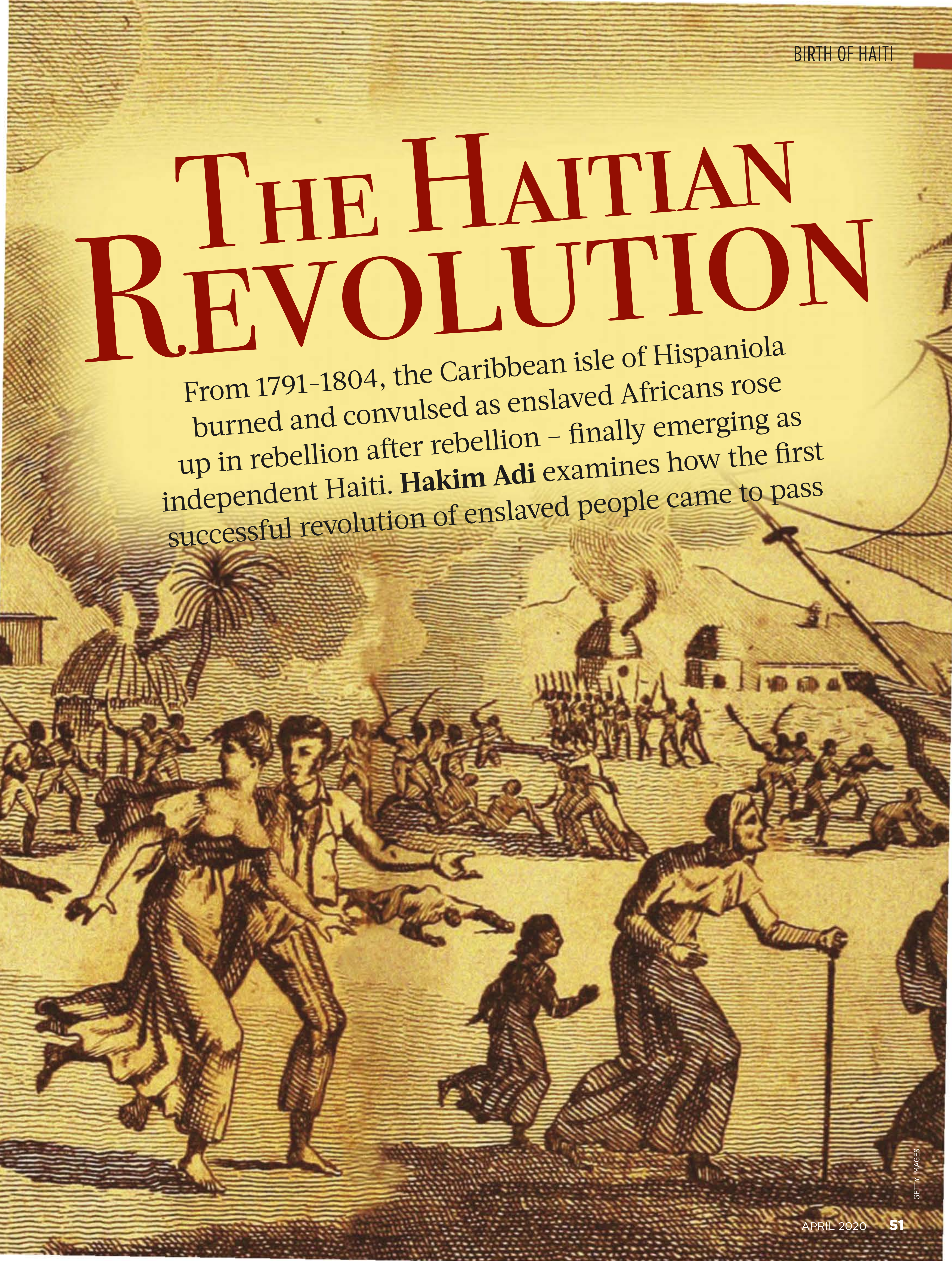
Vsevolod the Big Nest

A 12th-century Prince of Vladimir in modern-day Russia, Vsevolod had no fewer than 14 children, giving him a suitable nickname to go with his large brood. ⊙



THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION

From 1791-1804, the Caribbean isle of Hispaniola burned and convulsed as enslaved Africans rose up in rebellion after rebellion – finally emerging as independent Haiti. **Hakim Adi** examines how the first successful revolution of enslaved people came to pass



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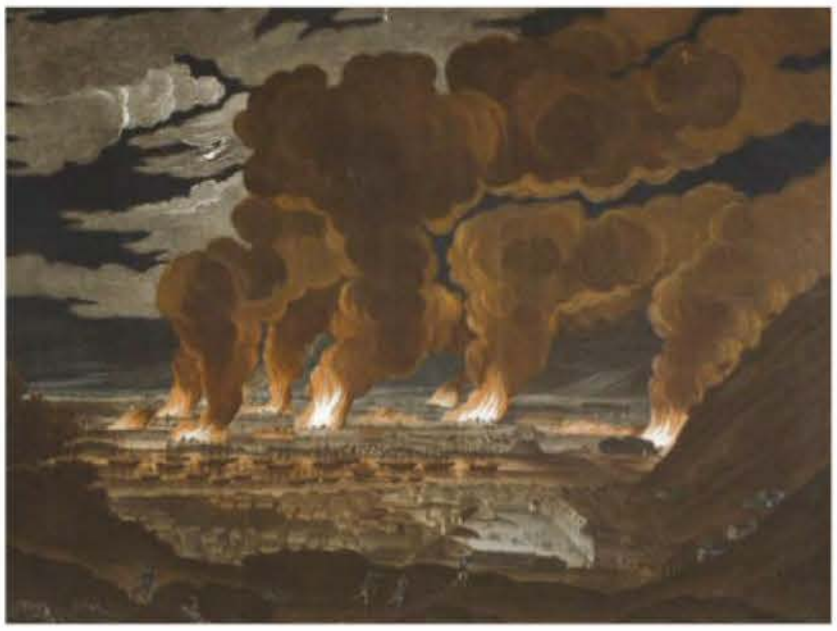

MAIN: **'Le Negre Marron', depicting a slave in revolt, stands in the Haitian capital in commemoration of the slaves who rose up against France**

LEFT: **Thousands of plantations were burned to ashes in the initial revolt of 1791**

On the night of Sunday 14 August 1791, 200 enslaved Africans representatives from a hundred plantations in the French colony of Saint Domingue, on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola met to discuss plans for revolution. Fully aware of the revolution in France, and the instability it had caused within the colony, they met to decide on the date for an uprising when they would free themselves and end the entire slave system. Once a date was agreed, they held a *vodou* religious ceremony, against the backdrop of a violent storm. Details of this event vary, but most record the presence of Dutty Boukman, an early leader of the revolution, who told those present to "listen to the voice of liberty that speaks in the hearts of us all".

The revolution in Saint Domingue began on the night of 22 August 1791 with the burning of plantations and the murder of the hated plantocracy. Enslaved Africans from one estate would join with those from neighbouring plantations, arming themselves with whatever weapons they could find. Within a month, the uprising was the largest ever on the North American continent, involving more than 100,000 enslaved Africans. A thousand plantations were set ablaze and more than a thousand Europeans lost their lives. The revolution would last for the next 13 years.

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

Saint Domingue, on the western part of Hispaniola, had been ceded to France by Spain in 1697. By the end of the 18th century it was known as the 'Pearl of the Antilles', being the wealthiest of all colonies in the Caribbean, producing around half the world's sugar and coffee, and accounting for 40 per cent of France's overseas trade.

This great wealth was produced by 500,000 enslaved Africans labouring on more than 8,000 plantations, the largest enslaved population in the Caribbean. Enslaved Africans had first been imported by the Spanish, whose occupation of Hispaniola soon led to the near extinction of the island's indigenous population. Such was the barbarity of the slave system developed by the French, that the average life expectancy for enslaved Africans was between seven and ten years. The enslaved population, therefore, had to be constantly replenished, by around 30,000 new Africans each year, and consequently was about 70 per cent African born.

Some 60 per cent of these Africans originated from the Angola and Kongo regions but they also included many of Yoruba, Igbo and Fon origin. On any plantation there may have been at least 20 African languages spoken. These contributed to a new common *kreyòl* language of communication, whilst diverse African cultures developed into the common spiritual belief known as vodou. Saint Domingue had regularly experienced resistance to slavery, and even rebellions by the enslaved, leading to the existence of maroon communities of liberated slaves who also took part in the revolution.

> **"The average life expectancy for enslaved Africans was between seven and ten years"**

DEMANDS FOR RIGHTS

Saint Domingue was unusual since it had not only a large population of enslaved Africans, but also a large and diverse population of about 30,000 French. Some resented royal control of the colony and had hopes for independence from France; there were also divisions between rich property owners and poorer colonists.

Perhaps even more significantly, the colony had a large and rebellious population of 'free people of colour' those who were neither Europeans nor enslaved Africans who numbered some 30,000 and outnumbered Europeans in two of the colony's three provinces. These *affranchis* included the formerly enslaved, but also the children of wealthy Europeans and enslaved or free women of colour.

The wealthiest amongst the affranchis owned around a quarter of all land and a third of all slaves in the colony. Several had also served in the military struggle for the independence of the American colonies. However, they were still discriminated against, barred from public office and a professional career, even from wearing certain clothes

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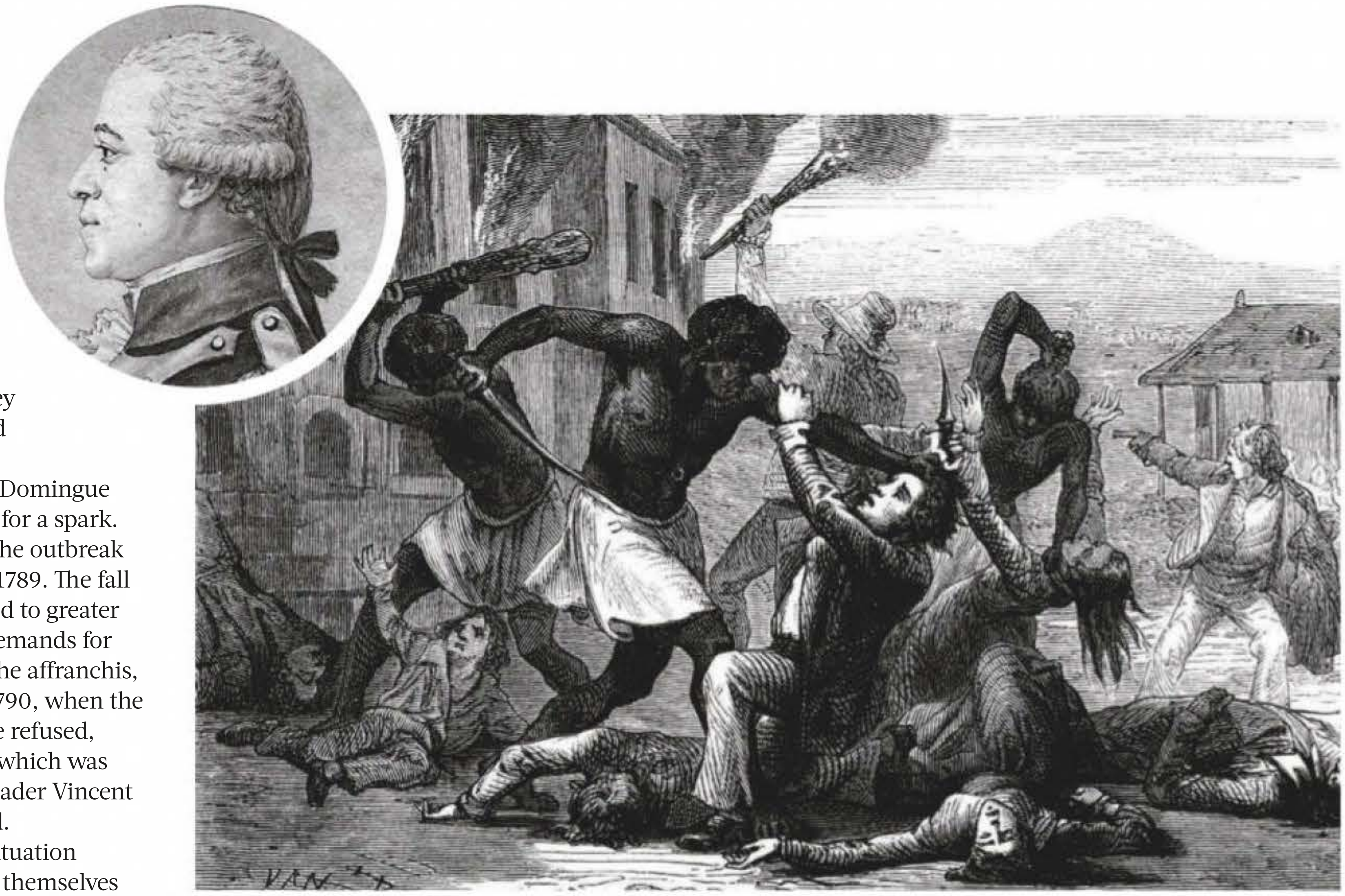


ABOVE: **Haiti was a powder keg prior to the revolution, and when change came it was violent**

ABOVE INSET: **Vincent Ogé, leader of the 1790 rebellion, was put to death in its aftermath**

and riding in carriages.

Most significantly, some also had strong links with the emerging abolitionist movement in France, which condemned slavery, as well as with the Enlightenment's ideas of liberty and equality; they were beginning to demand their rights.

In some respects, Saint Domingue was a powder keg waiting for a spark. Ignition was provided by the outbreak of revolution in France in 1789. The fall of the French monarchy led to greater instability in the colony, demands for independence and, from the affranchis, demands for equality. In 1790, when the demands of the latter were refused, a rebellion was organised which was violently suppressed, its leader Vincent Ogé tortured and executed.

It was in this unstable situation that the enslaved Africans themselves rebelled in August 1791, while the affranchis organised another rebellion demanding the same rights as the white population.

INVASION AND ABOLITION

These rebellions spread rapidly, since many Africans had extensive military experience as did many affranchis. The majority of liberated slaves took over the plantations and began to establish themselves as peasant farmers growing their own food and other crops. In September 1792, in an attempt to restore order, a 6,000 strong army was sent to Saint Domingue by the government in France, led by Léger Félicité Sonthonax.

Initially Sonthonax allied mainly with the affranchis in order to suppress the revolution. However, his mission was made even more difficult when in 1793 some French troops mutinied, and both England and Spain declared war against revolutionary France and sent troops to invade Saint Domingue. To restore order, Sonthonax was forced to issue a decree abolishing slavery, in August 1793 first issued in the north and then applied throughout the entire colony.

Meanwhile, all those fighting for a future in Saint Domingue and even for the preservation of the plantation system the French, Spanish, British and affranchis had to recruit armies of insurrectionary slaves.

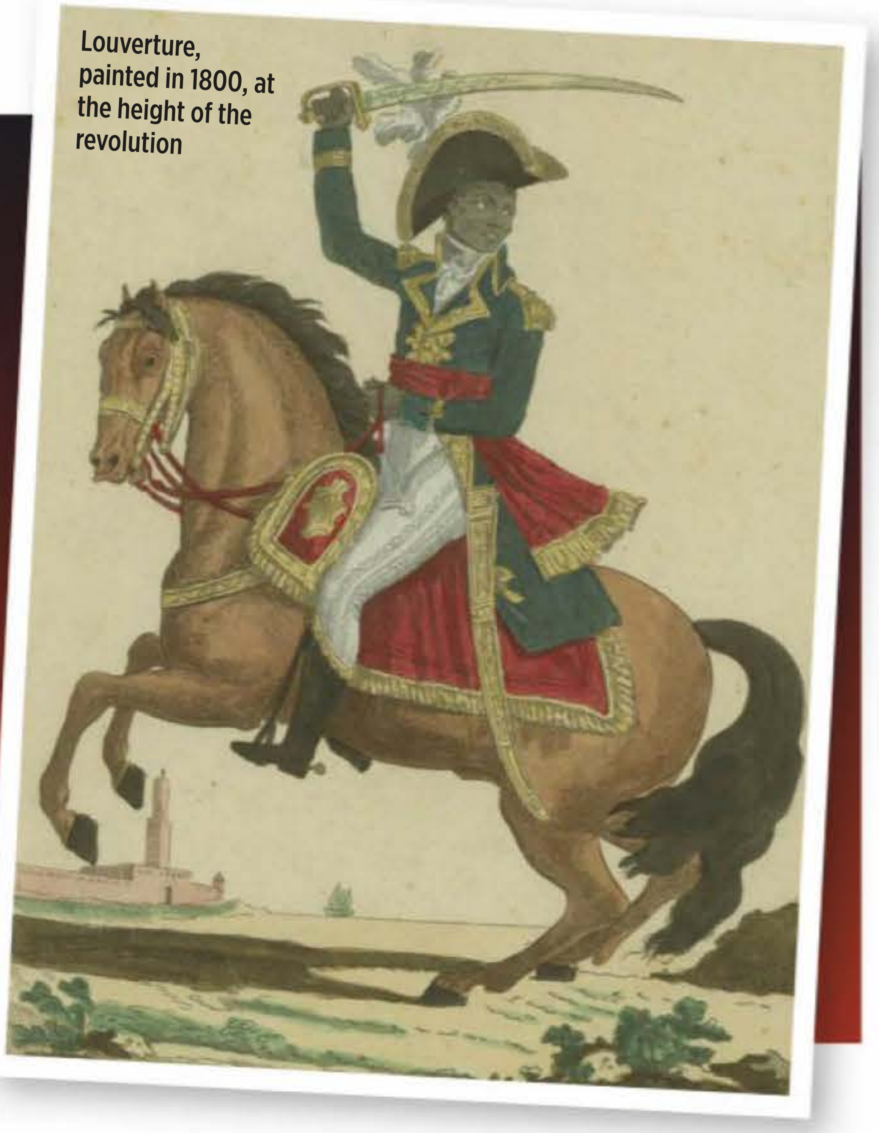
It was in this period of confusion and conflict that Toussaint Louverture emerged as the principal leader of the revolution (*see box below*). He joined the French in 1794, but already had his own aim: to continue to advance the interests of the enslaved while ▶

TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE

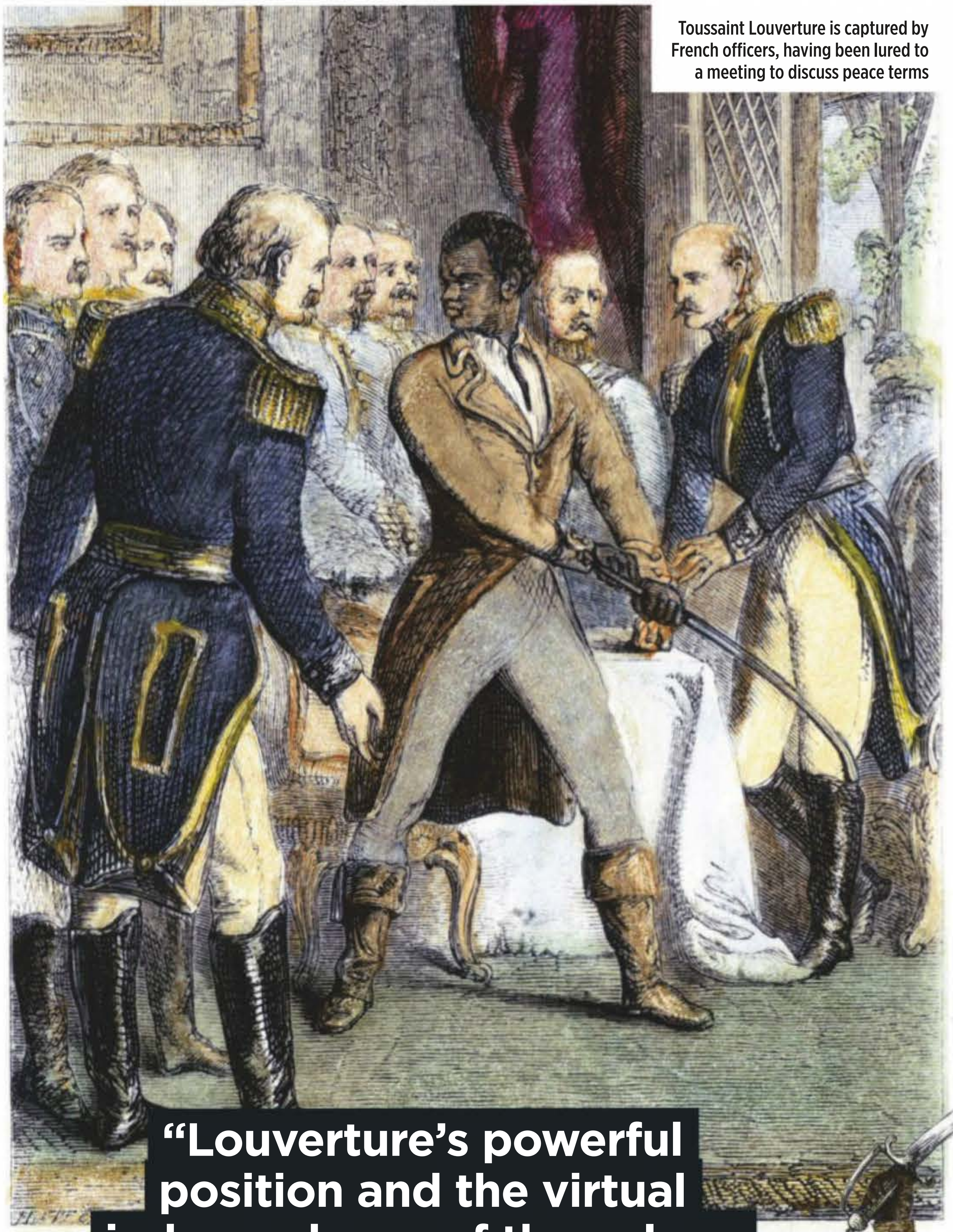
Who was the man who led the revolution?

Toussaint Bréda was born a slave in Saint-Domingue, but became an affranchi and perhaps even a minor slave owner. He was literate and already well over 40 in 1791, when he may have been involved in the early planning of the revolution. Initially a military commander, he fought for the Spanish, winning military victories against the French and leading affranchis. In 1793, he adopted the name Louverture (literally, 'the opening'). A great military strategist, during 1794 he changed his allegiance and – owing to his military victories – the French government made him a general.

In 1796, he was appointed deputy governor and commander-in-chief of the French army in Saint-Domingue, which was mainly composed of African troops. From 1797, he was effectively the main political leader in Saint-Domingue, and in 1801 declared himself governor-general for life, but was seen as a major threat by Napoleon Bonaparte. Deceived and arrested by the French invasion force in 1802, Louverture was deported and died in solitary confinement in a French prison on 7 April 1803. His life was celebrated in William Wordsworth's poem *To Toussaint Louverture* and in abolitionist James Stephen's *Buonaparte in the West Indies: Or, the history of Toussaint Louverture, the African hero*.



Louverture, painted in 1800, at the height of the revolution



Toussaint Louverture is captured by French officers, having been lured to a meeting to discuss peace terms

“Louverture’s powerful position and the virtual independence of the colony was opposed by Napoleon”

professing loyalty to France.

Louverture soon won military victories against Spain, which withdrew from Saint Domingue in 1795, and Britain, which was forced to withdraw in 1798. In 1800, by skilful diplomacy, intrigue and military victories, Louverture had complete control of Saint Domingue; by 1801, he also occupied the former Spanish colony of Santo Domingo. He established a new system of government that gave him some dictatorial powers, including controlling movement in the colony, as well as new legal and education systems. Louverture allowed some French planters to return to strengthen the economy and engaged in trade and other negotiations with the governments of Britain and the US. The new regime did not find favour with all, many former slaves preferring to cultivate their own plots of land rather than work on plantations for the government, and Louverture was forced to suppress one major rebellion, led by his adopted nephew General Möise. However, there were some notable successes and coffee production was restored to 60 per cent of pre revolutionary levels.

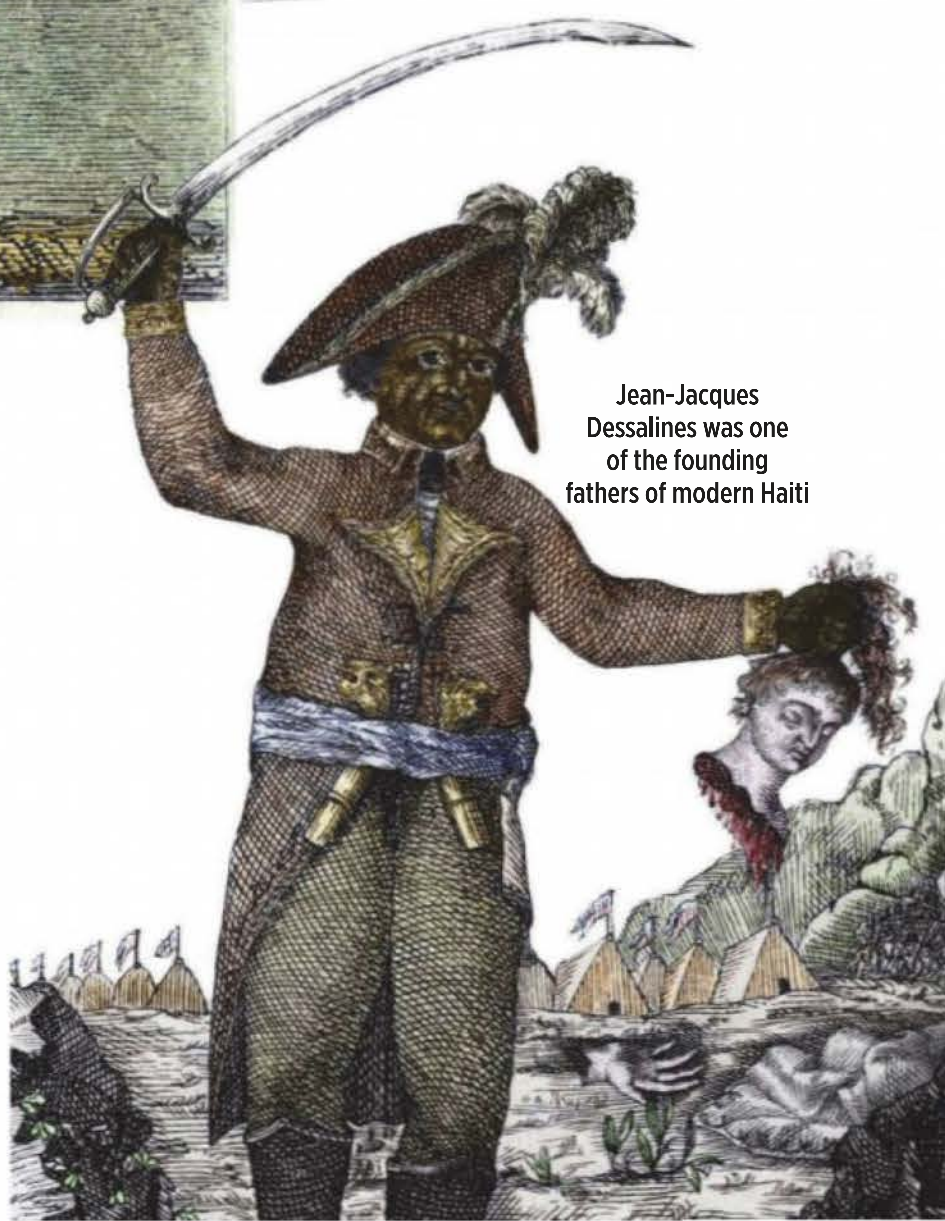
NAPOLEON’S IRE

Louverture’s powerful position and the virtual independence of the colony was opposed by Napoleon Bonaparte, who had seized power in France in 1799. In 1802, Napoleon launched a new invasion of Saint Domingue, which ushered in the most violent part of the revolution. Initially, the French attempted to regain control of Saint Domingue without major conflict, mainly by deception, although with an invasion army of 20,000. Several of Louverture’s leading generals were persuaded to surrender and Louverture himself was eventually trapped by the French, arrested, and deported to France where he died in prison in 1803. He reportedly told the French: “In overthrowing me, you have cut down only the trunk of the Tree of Liberty. It will spring up again by the roots for they are numerous and deep.”

AMERICA AVENGED

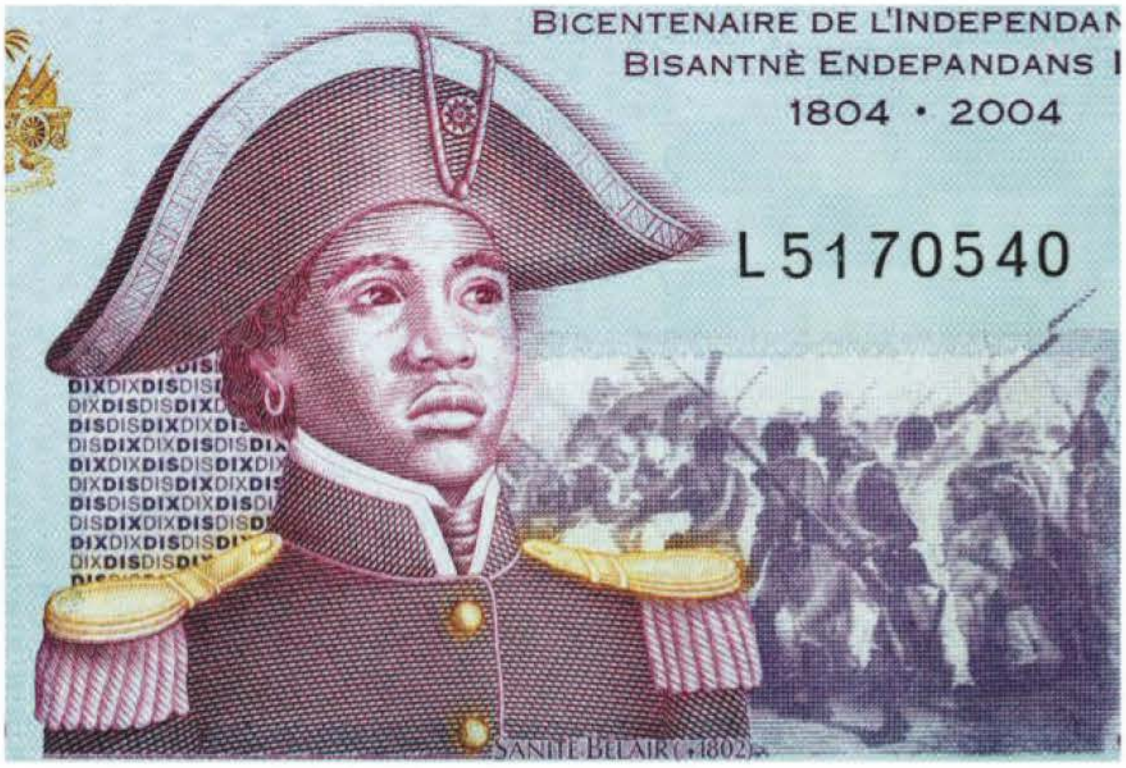
At the time of Louverture’s death, the French army had already lost 8,000 men from warfare and disease. Resistance to the invasion continued, including that inspired by revolutionary heroine Sanité Bélair who encouraged her husband General Bélair to lead his troops against the French but was betrayed, arrested and executed (as was her husband).

Napoleon’s government then provoked even greater resistance with new laws re establishing slavery in all French colonies and preventing all people of colour from entering France. One by one, Louverture’s generals and their armies of former slaves rejoined the resistance, which now included the affranchis.



Jean-Jacques Dessalines was one of the founding fathers of modern Haiti

ALAMY X3, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY IMAGES X1



Revolutionary heroine Sanité Bélair appears on Haiti's ten gourdes banknote

Haitian soldiers had fought in the American War of Independence – the memorial in Savannah, Georgia, depicts members of the Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue

For the first time resistance was united, under the leadership of Jean Jacques Dessalines, himself a former slave, with the aim of completely driving the French from Saint Domingue.

Although the invasion force carried out several atrocities in this period, which provoked reprisals from Dessalines, they were unable to maintain the occupation of Saint Domingue, and on 18 November 1803 the revolutionary forces defeated the French army at the Battle of Vertières, leading to the invaders' final surrender. The people of Saint Domingue had defeated the three principal armies of Europe and finally liberated themselves from slavery and racism.

On 1 January 1804, Dessalines announced the creation of the new republic of Haiti, named after the Taino name for Hispaniola, declaring: "I have given the French cannibals blood for blood, I have avenged America."

This marked the culmination of the only successful revolution of enslaved people in human history, which led to the formation of the first modern African republic, although established outside the African continent. It also created the first modern conception of human rights, with a new constitution recognising all citizens as free, equal and black.

The Haitian Revolution created fear amongst the slave owners throughout the Americas, influenced other uprisings throughout that continent, and also had a major impact on the British parliament's decision to abolish the transatlantic slave trade in 1807. ⊙

HAKIM ADI is Professor of the History of Africa and the African Diaspora at the University of Chichester. His latest book is *Pan-Africanism: A History* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2018)

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804 on an episode of *In Our Time*.
bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04lsqgs

BREAKING THE CHAINS

The Haitian Revolution was not a one off, as this trio of slave uprisings reveal

The figure in the Emancipation Statue of Barbados is commonly referred to as 'Bussa'

BUSSA'S REBELLION

▲ The revolt took place in the British colony of Barbados in April 1816, led by an African-born and well-trusted slave named Bussa, and others including Nanny Grigg, a literate domestic. Around 400 men and women participated in the rebellion, which occurred at a time when the abolitionist movement in Britain was demanding an end to slavery. Bussa was killed in battle and hundreds of others executed.

NAT TURNER'S REBELLION

This took place in the US state of Virginia, US, in 1831, led by a literate Christian slave who believed that God had commanded him to rise up – the rebellion ultimately included both slaves and free men, who aimed to set free other slaves and kill slave owners. The uprising provoked panic and was suppressed, with hundreds of African-Americans killed in retaliation. Turner hid amongst local Native Americans for nearly two months, but was eventually arrested and executed.

THE MALÊ REVOLT

Occurring in Salvador, Brazil in 1835, this was an uprising of Muslim slaves and free people, mostly of Yoruba and Hausa origin, who clearly knew of the Haitian Revolution. Although the planned rising was betrayed, several hundred Muslims took to the streets and attempted to free the jailed leaders. The revolt was savagely suppressed, its main leaders executed and several hundred deported back to Africa.

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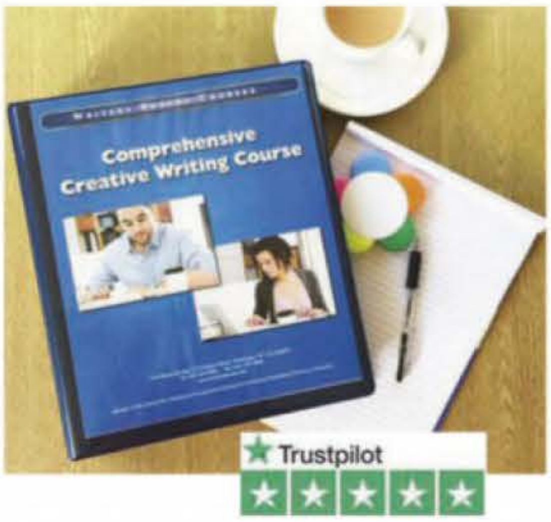

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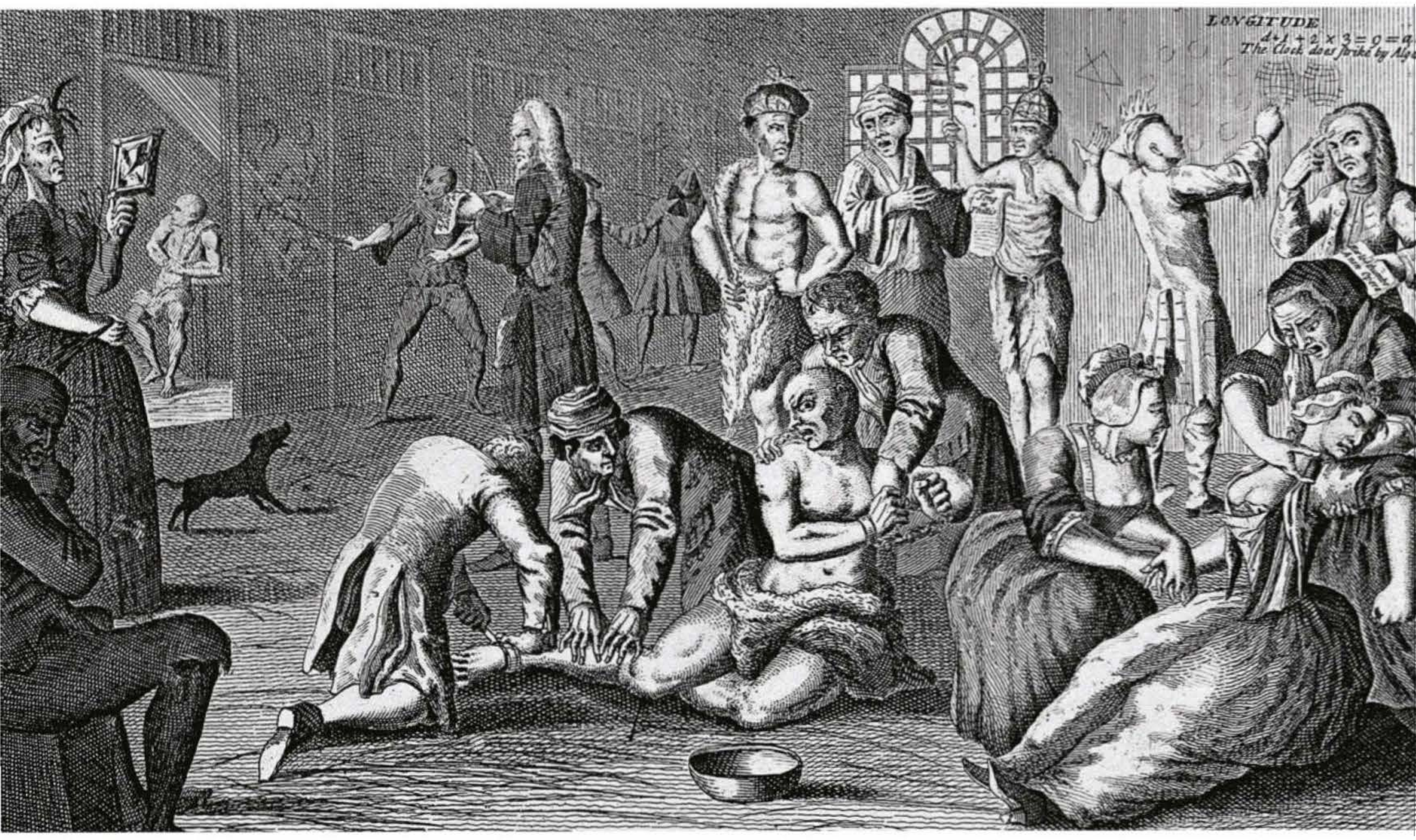
BEDLAM

'PALACE FOR LUNATICS'

The infamous asylum for the mentally ill has a fearsome reputation. How bad was it really? **Paul Chambers** explores what went on inside its walls, and how 'Bedlam' became a byword for chaos

WELLCOME COLLECTION



“One can hardly imagine a human being in a more degraded and brutalised condition than that in which I found this female.” The woman, Anna Stone, had been found naked, filthy and chained with several others against the wall of a damp, dark stone cell.

This was one of several appalling discoveries made by inspectors at London’s Bethlem ‘madhouse’ in 1814. Although Bethlem Hospital (its official title, although it was more commonly known as Bedlam) was supposed to be the foremost psychiatric institution in Britain, the inspectors thought it had “the appearance of a dog kennel”.

Bethlem was founded in 1247 and through most of its history reflected contemporary views on the treatment and care of people with a mental illness. There was, however, a darker period when the hospital became more conservative, secretive and, eventually, abusive in the treatment of its patients. This lasted for more than a century and, despite later reforms, has led to the permanent association of the term Bedlam with anything that is chaotic or unruly.

For most of its history Bethlem was the only dedicated mental institution in Britain, which automatically made its medical staff the foremost experts in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. Medieval thinking held that madness was a disease of the body, not of the brain, which could be cured using strong medicines to purge the individual of ‘melancholic humours’.

All mental illness, it was thought, could be cured by inducing recurring bouts of vomiting and diarrhoea, and by bleeding from the veins. The skin would be blistered with caustic substances and patients would have their heads shaved and be placed in cold baths. This regime would be administered repeatedly and for as long as ‘the strength would bear’. It inevitably led to deaths.

This treatment was still universally accepted in 1676, as Bethlem moved from its cramped medieval building at Bishopsgate into a magnificent and ornate hospital at Moorfields. It remained Britain’s only mental health facility, and had developed a nepotistic tradition which saw medical posts pass between friends and family, ensuring that treatments methods were similarly inherited.

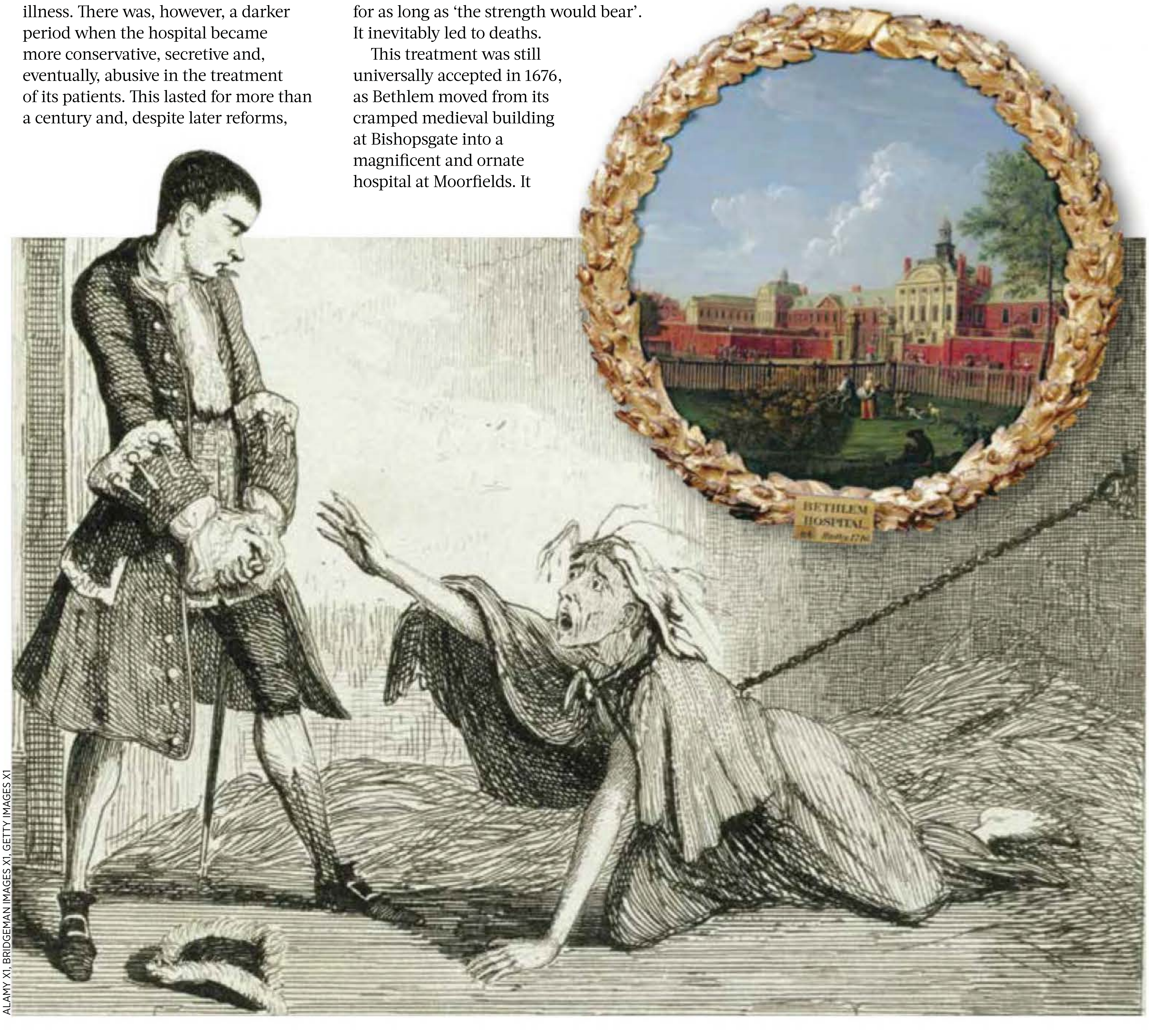
DOCTORS AT WAR

The 18th century saw a rapid expansion in London’s population and also a decline in the traditional treatment of insanity within the family home. Bethlem had space for just over 120 patients and a long waiting list for admissions. As a consequence, many private ‘madhouses’ appeared around London, some of which were no more than unregulated prisons that enabled families to lock up perfectly sane but inconvenient relations.

In 1750, a group of medical reformers

BOTTOM: **Highwayman Jack Sheppard visits his mother in Bethlem**

INSET **Bethlem Hospital c1747, when it was based at Moorfields**



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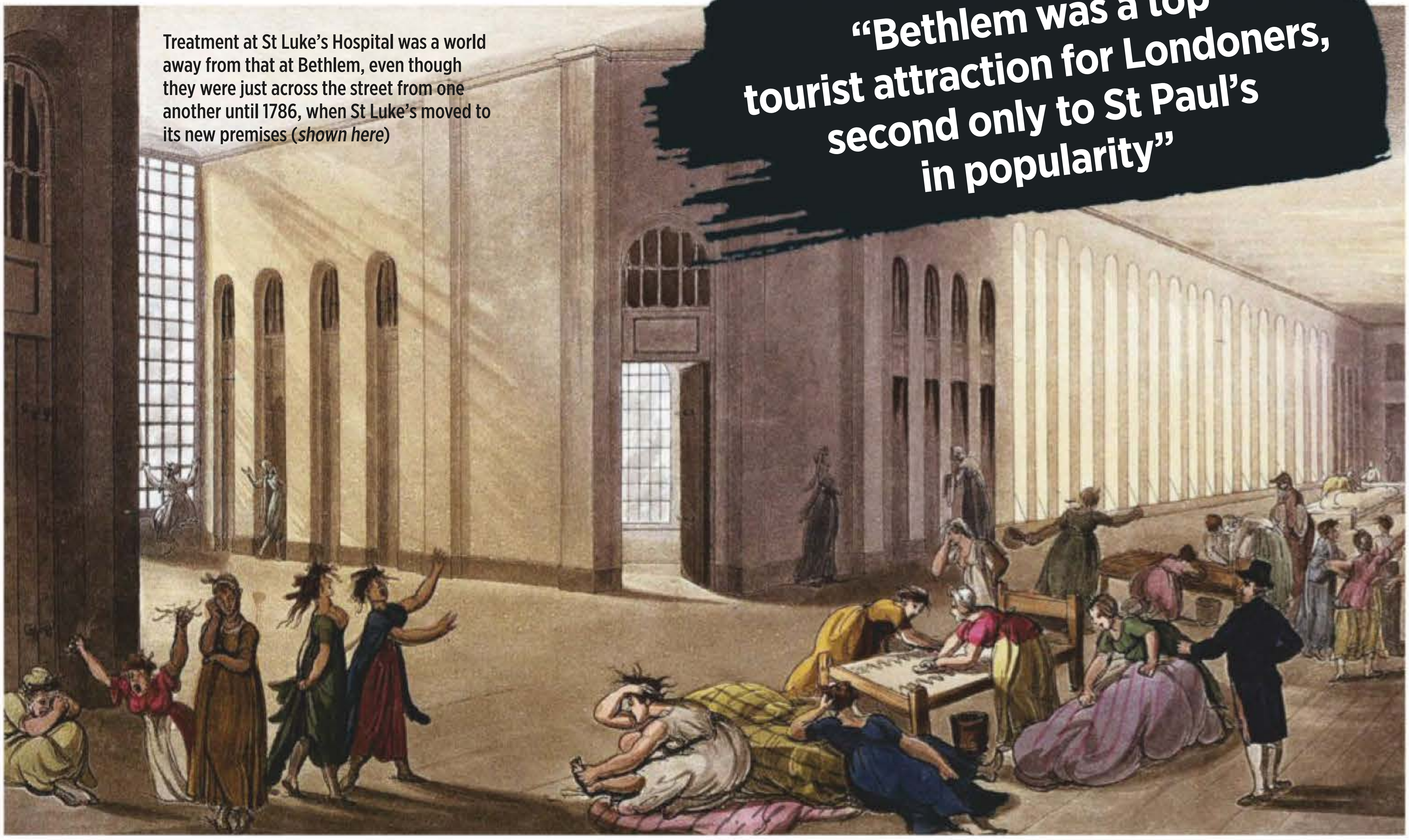


Treatment at St Luke’s Hospital was a world away from that at Bethlem, even though they were just across the street from one another until 1786, when St Luke’s moved to its new premises (*shown here*)

> **“Bethlem was a top tourist attraction for Londoners, second only to St Paul’s in popularity”**

wished to see a progressive alternative to Bethlem and so St Luke’s Hospital was created. This was located directly opposite Bethlem, with William Battie serving as its chief physician. In contrast to traditional medical thinking, Battie publicly denounced the use of “bleeding, blisters, caustics, opium, cold baths and vomits’ in favour of patients being ‘removed from all objects that are known causes of their disorder”.

A stone’s throw from St Luke’s, Bethlem’s then doctor was John Monro (son of the previous doctor, James Munro) who strongly disagreed with Battie’s methods, writing that “the most adequate and constant cure is by evacuation” and that he “never saw or heard of the bad effect of vomits”. The two doctors battled publicly and promoted their views in books which, rather bizarrely, were widely accepted as being simultaneously correct.

It was not just the views of the doctors that separated the two hospitals, however. St Luke’s treated its patients through individual diagnosis and care, the belief being that there were many forms of mental illness and not just one. At the heart of patient care was a clean, calm environment. Perhaps most surprising of all was that St Luke’s would not admit paying visitors, a practice that Bethlem had allowed for centuries.

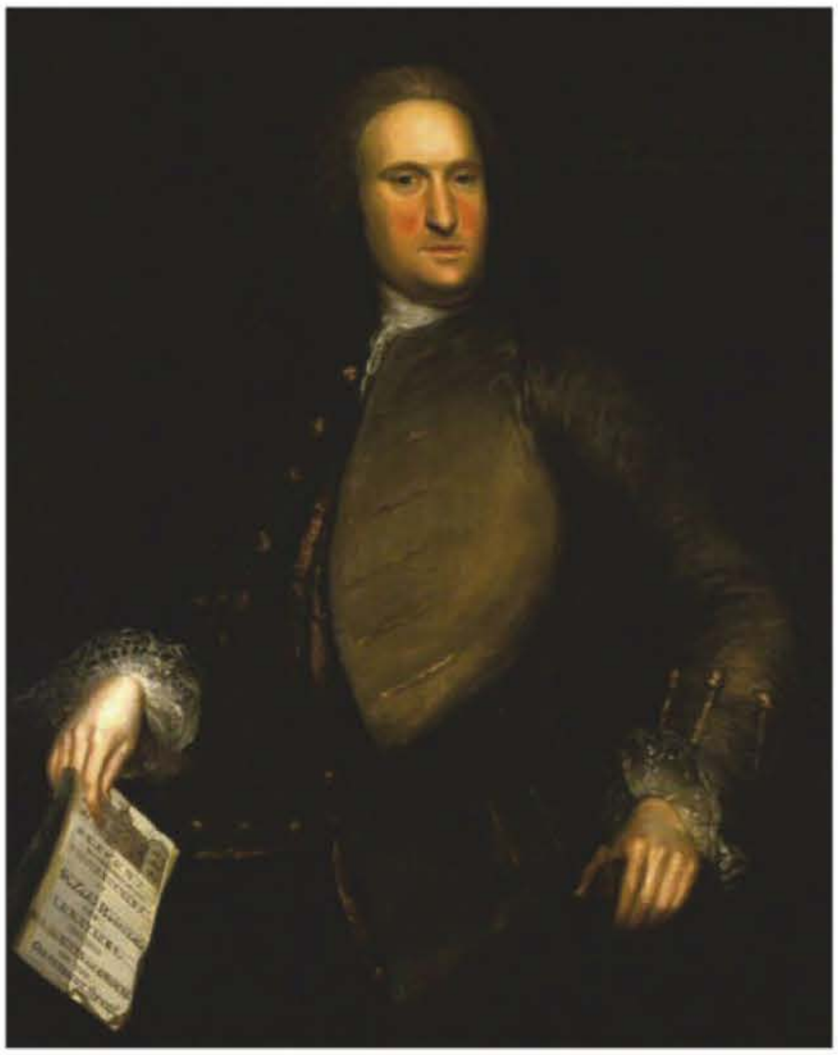
By the 1750s Bethlem was accepting tens of thousands of paying visitors a year, making it a top tourist attraction for Londoners, second only to St Paul’s Cathedral in popularity. Most did not wish to admire the manicured gardens or ornate architecture but came instead to visit the hospital’s ‘crackbrained’ patients. For as little as a penny, anyone could gain access to Bethlem’s wards in order to stare at, taunt or abuse inmates.

At some time or other most Londoners seem to have visited the ‘madman’s college’ including the likes of Samuel Pepys, Dr Johnson and William Hogarth. It is from their writings that we get a glimpse at what conditions inside Bethlem were like for visitors and patients.

HOSPITAL AND HOTSPOT

The account of diarist Ned Ward is typical. He visited Bethlem in 1699 and found himself immersed in a terrifying world of noise and disorder. “We heard such a rattling of chains, drumming of doors, ranting, hollering, singing and rattling that I could think of nothing but… [a vision] where the damn’d broke loose, and put Hell in an uproar.”

With the patients locked in their cells, Ward was able to join other visitors in making taunts and jeers through the bars and peepholes. Some inmates were verbally insulted while others were goaded into doing or saying ridiculous things. Those who were beyond conversation tried to dissuade people from staring at them by spitting or throwing objects or, if suffering from ‘melancholia’, by not responding at all.



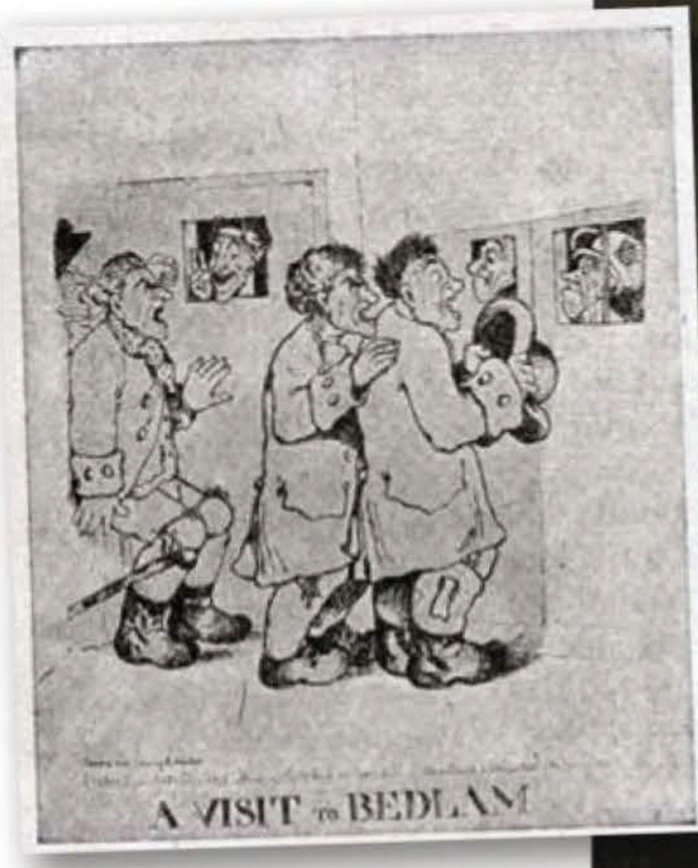
William Battie of the neighbouring St Luke’s was an early proponent of reforming treatment for mental illness

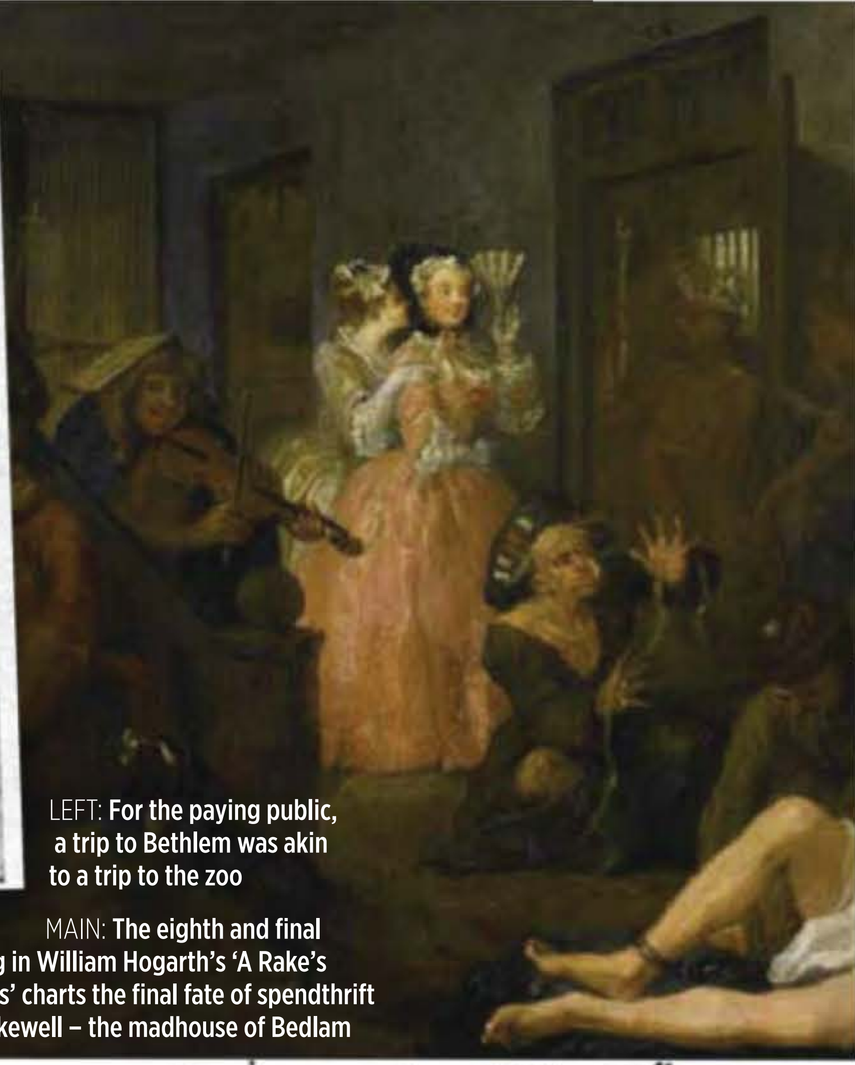
By modern standards this behaviour seems cruel, degrading and counterproductive to the patients’ mental health. However, 18th century medicine dictated that madness robbed the individual of shame, emotion and reason to the extent that any verbal or physical abuse they suffered could surely have no lasting effect. Charging admission and accepting donations was also lucrative, raising up to £450 a year for the hospital, while staff topped up their salaries with bribes for private tours and access to cells and wards.

It was not just tourists who were drawn to Bethlem. Intermixed with the cacophony, smells and sights of the wards were prostitutes, pickpockets and merchants of food, drink, trinkets and other wares. Bedlam, wrote Ward in his journal, "is an alms-house for madmen, a showing-room for whores, a sure market for lechers, a dry walk for loiterers". Despite this, Londoners loved it.

Year on year visitor numbers increased, leading to overcrowding, especially during the Christmas and Easter periods. From 1770, to limit riotous behaviour by both visitors and patients during seasonal holidays, admission was gradually tightened; by the 1780s, outside access was only possible if accompanied by a hospital governor or senior officer.

Mental health reformists such as William Battie had argued that patients required calm and quiet to aid their recovery, and the removal of visitors from Bethlem's wards certainly achieved this. But it also had an unexpected downside. Public admission allowed anyone to come and make their own judgement on the conditions inside Bethlem. After the ban, the hospital operated behind closed doors with its facilities, care and medical practices operating unobserved and unregulated.





LEFT: For the paying public, a trip to Bethlem was akin to a trip to the zoo

MAIN: The eighth and final painting in William Hogarth's 'A Rake's Progress' charts the final fate of spendthrift Tom Rakewell – the madhouse of Bedlam

THE HORROR WITHIN

Bethlem soon found itself at the centre of a major financial embezzlement which, together with a general drop in income, placed it in debt. The state of the building, which had been hastily erected in just

> "To be sent to Bethlem wasn't just a matter of shame. It also presented the serious risk of injury or even death"

LONDON'S PRIVATE MADHOUSES

Some of London's mental asylums were run purely for financial gain...

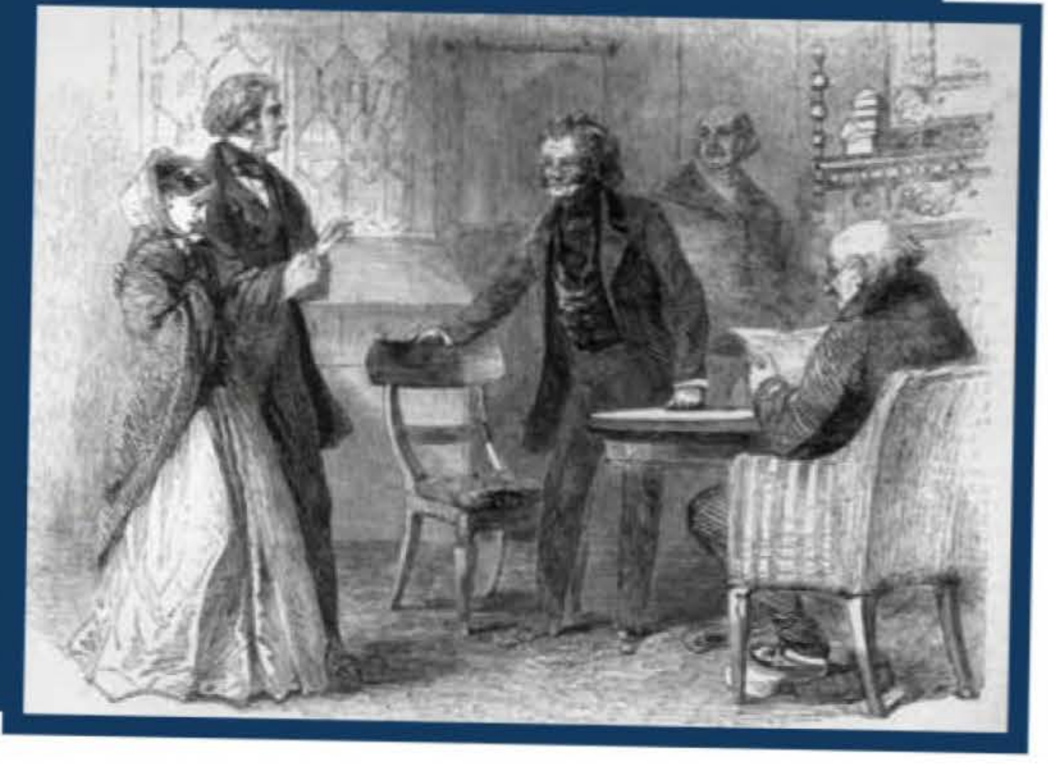
Bethlem's emphasis was on curing mental illness, which limited admission to those who were "raving and furious and capable of cure". People who were deemed to be incurably 'distracted', 'idiotic', 'mad' or 'lunatic' didn't qualify, and had to be treated at home or left to wander the countryside as 'vagrant' or 'Tom O'Bedlams'.

By 1700, Bethlem had a lengthy waiting list but a persistent need for asylums led to private 'madhouses' springing up all over London. Owning and running a private madhouse required no licence, qualifications or duty of care, a situation that led to several high-profile scandals as husbands and relatives attempted to lock away inconvenient but otherwise sane relations.

In 1762, for example, a Mrs Hawley was kidnapped by her mother and husband, and admitted to a Chelsea madhouse. They wished to have her declared insane in order to gain power of attorney over her finances. Once in the madhouse, Mrs Hawley was assaulted and kept secretly hidden until friends found and eventually freed her. In the ensuing trial, the madhouse owner admitted that he in effect ran a private prison that admitted "all persons that are brought here".

Concern over false imprisonment and abuse led to a 1763 inquiry by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, but a subsequent attempt at legislation was blocked. It was not until 1774 that the first Madhouse Act was passed, requiring private asylums to be licensed and inspected – although, at the behest of its governors, Bethlem was exempted. Exclusion from this was a probable contributory factor to the poor conditions discovered at the hospital in 1814.

Unfortunate souls were sometimes consigned to private madhouses at the behest of their grasping relatives



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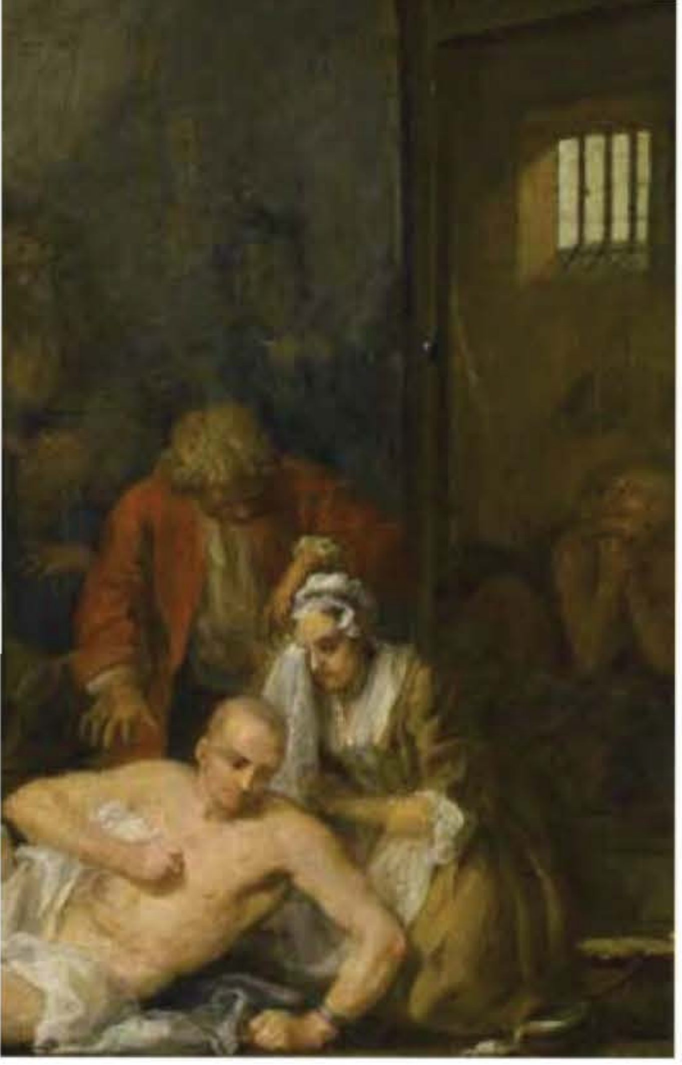


over two years, was also of concern. It had always suffered from being damp and cold, but increased instances of subsidence and leakage led to a surveyor declaring the edifice to be falling apart. Repair was impossible and its continued use was declared to be 'unwise and improvident to the highest degree'.

As parts of the building became uninhabitable, so patients were bunched ever closer together with the 'raving mad' being placed in the same cells as the quieter inmates. Violence was commonplace and so many patients were chained either to their beds or to the walls. Adding to the misery was a lack of clothing and heating, rats, and medical officers whose adherence to debilitating purgative cures had become increasingly out-of-step with contemporary thinking.

As the 19th century dawned Bethlem remained outwardly visually magnificent while inside it had become a dilapidated, cash-starved institution operating without any accountability or scrutiny. With no inspectors or even outside visitors to check on the patients, conditions were squalid and abusive. To be sent to Bethlem was no longer just a matter of shame, it also presented the serious risk of injury or even death.

Nor was there much prospect of being cured. Bryan Crowther, surgeon at Bethlem from 1789–1815 was reported to be "generally insane and mostly drunk". The doctor, Thomas Monro (son and grandson of previous incumbents), preferred collecting art to medicine. His visits to Bethlem were infrequent, brief and never involved touring the patients' wards. There were reports of widespread alcoholism, of buckled ceilings and walls and of male staff making improper visits to the female galleries.

Away from Bethlem the discovery of

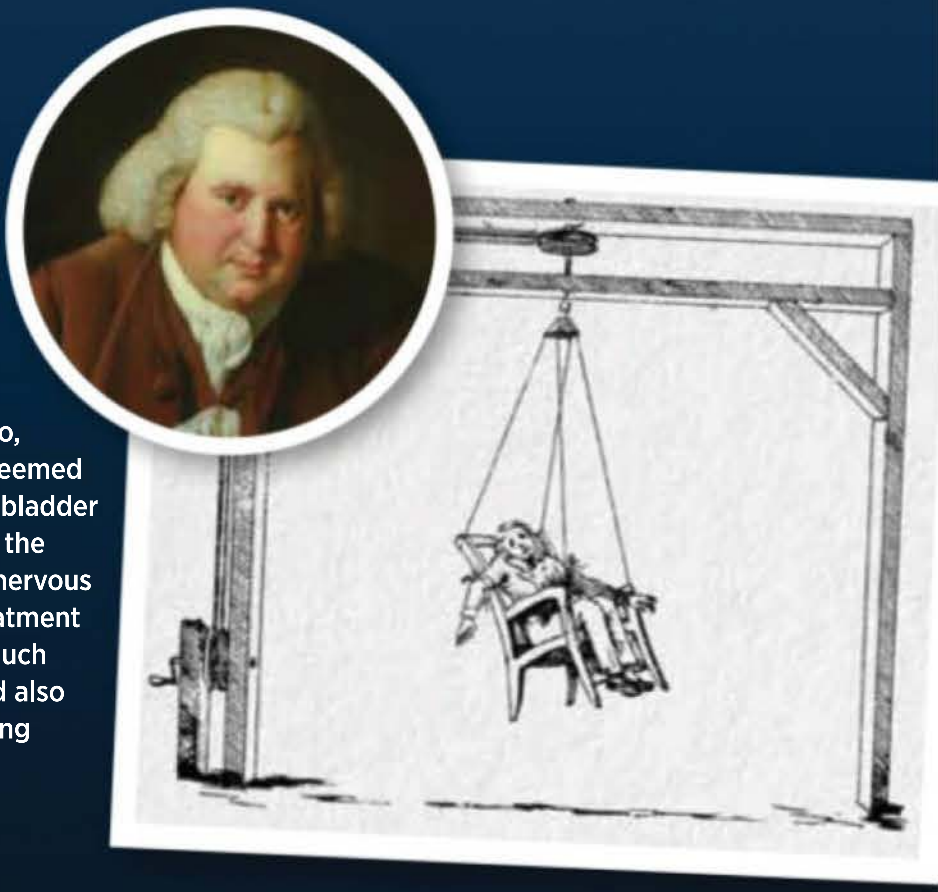
Continues on p64

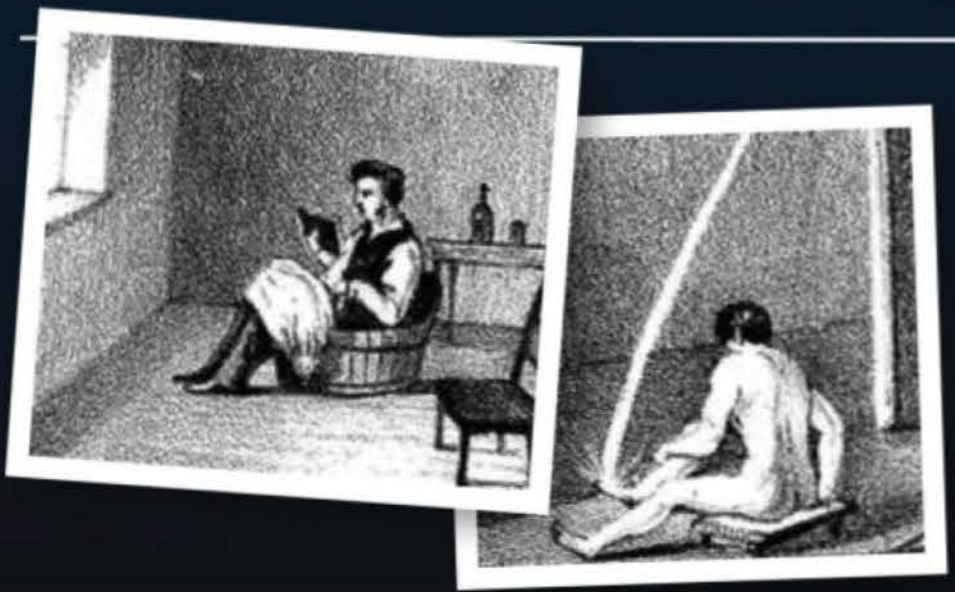
BETHLEM'S TERRIFYING TREATMENTS

They say you have to be cruel to be kind, and judging by the treatments below, that was once the outlook held at Bethlem...

▶ ROTATIONAL THERAPY

Developed by Erasmus Darwin (*right*), grandfather of the famous Charles, rotational therapy usually involved placing a patient in a chair suspended from a beam by ropes attached to its legs. The chair would be turned 20-40 times one way and allowed to spin back to its original position. Darwin himself, in 1796, recommended the practice be performed for "an hour or two, three or four times a day for a month". Deemed an effective way to evacuate the bowels, bladder and stomach and make an impression on the 'organs of sensibility' (the brain and the nervous system), it was also thought that this treatment would induce restful sleep in a patient, much like rocking a baby. The swing chair could also be used as punishment – a way of asserting dominance over patients who refused to comply with staff orders.



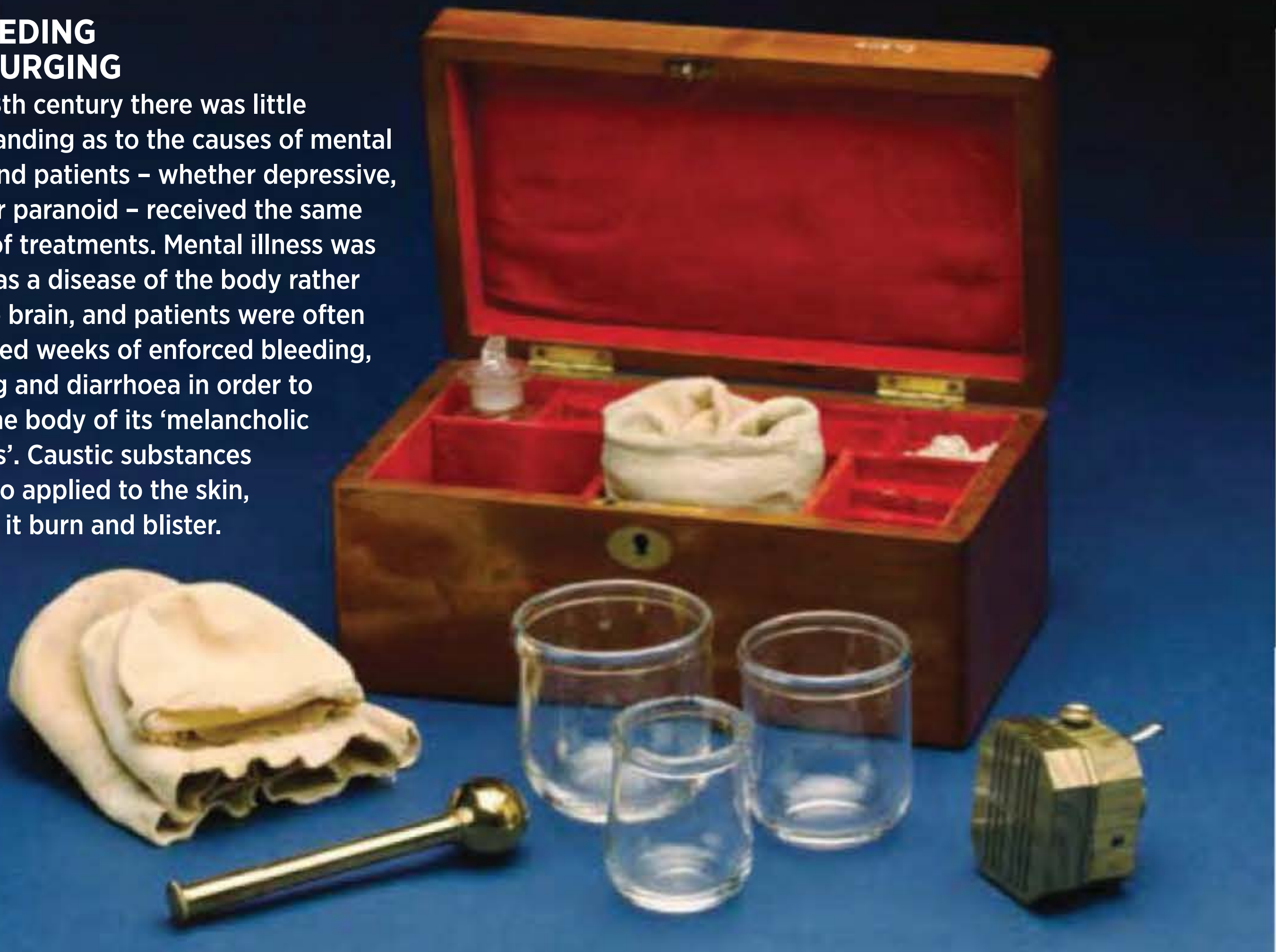


◀ COLD WATER THERAPY

Cold bathing was introduced at Bethlem in the 1680s and became a way of 'shocking' inmates out of mental illness; it remained a popular course of treatment for much of the 18th century. Patients could be submerged in cold water for long periods of time, wrapped in towels that had been soaked in ice, or sprayed with cold water.

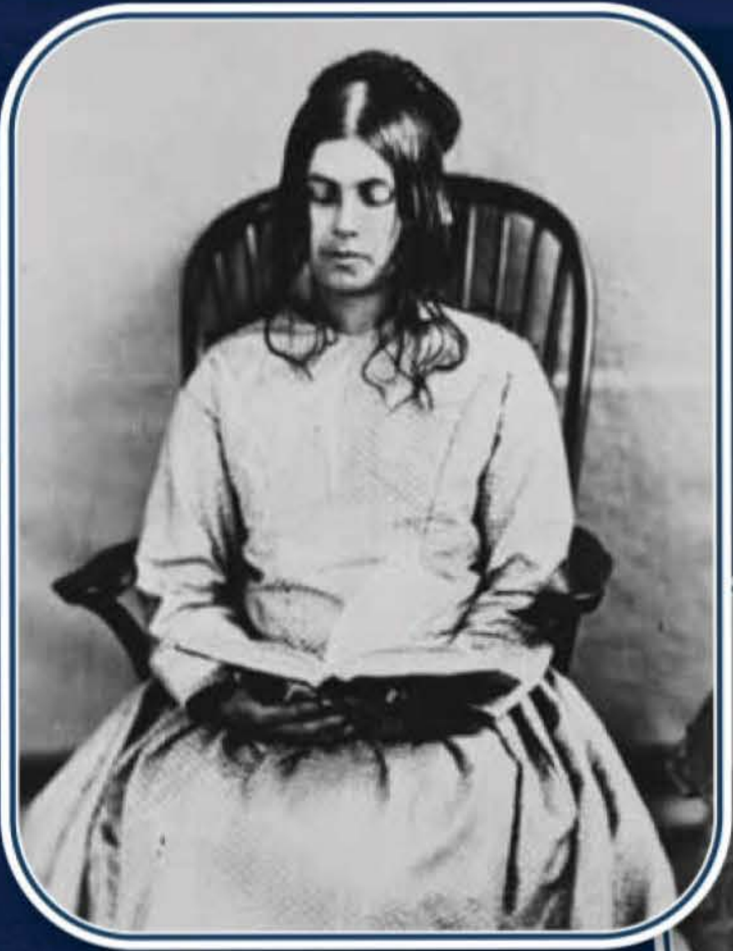
▶ BLEEDING AND PURGING

In the 18th century there was little understanding as to the causes of mental illness and patients – whether depressive, manic or paranoid – received the same course of treatments. Mental illness was viewed as a disease of the body rather than the brain, and patients were often prescribed weeks of enforced bleeding, vomiting and diarrhoea in order to purge the body of its 'melancholic humours'. Caustic substances were also applied to the skin, to make it burn and blister.

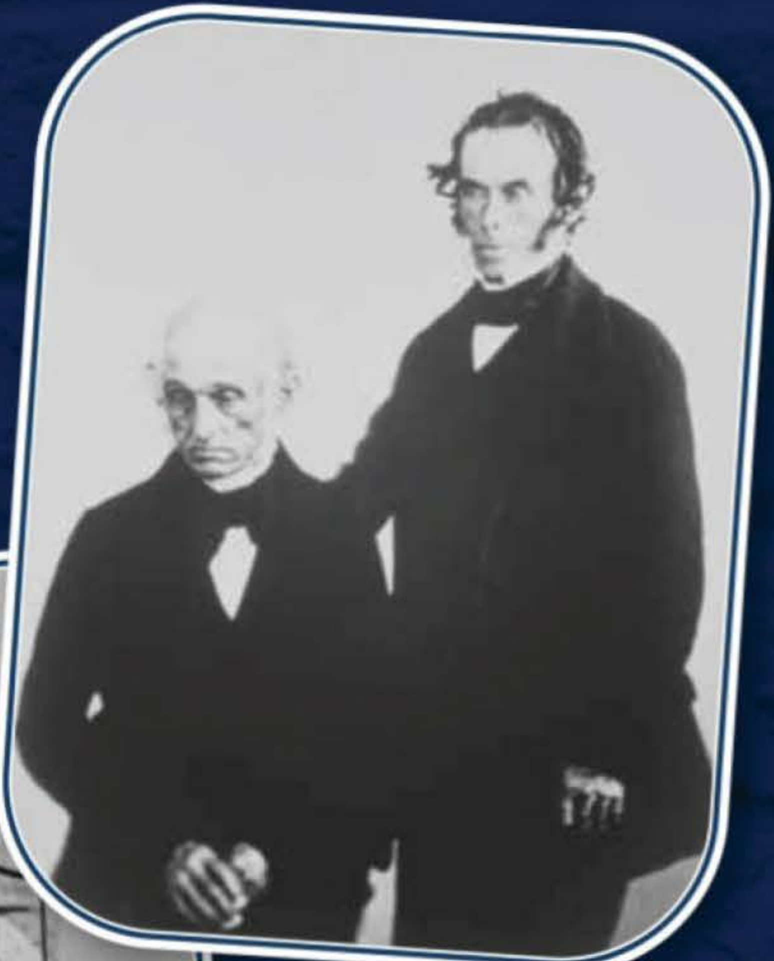


A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

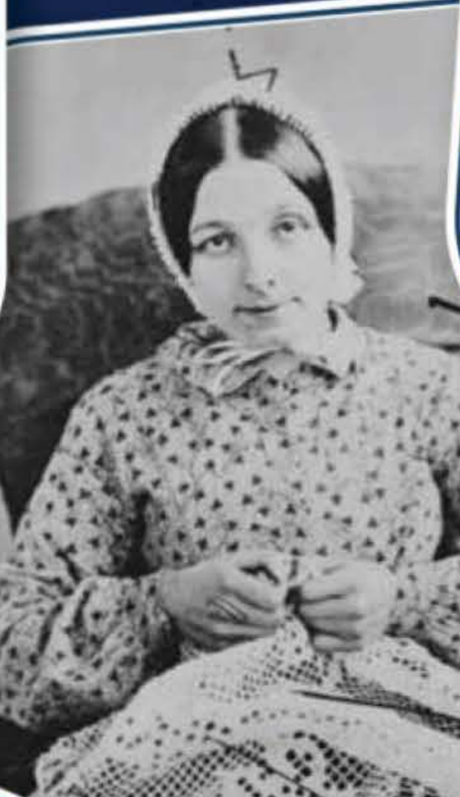
During the 1850s, Bethlem patients were captured on camera by society photographer Henry Hering. His images provide a rare, and often moving, glimpse into the Victorian experience of mental illness



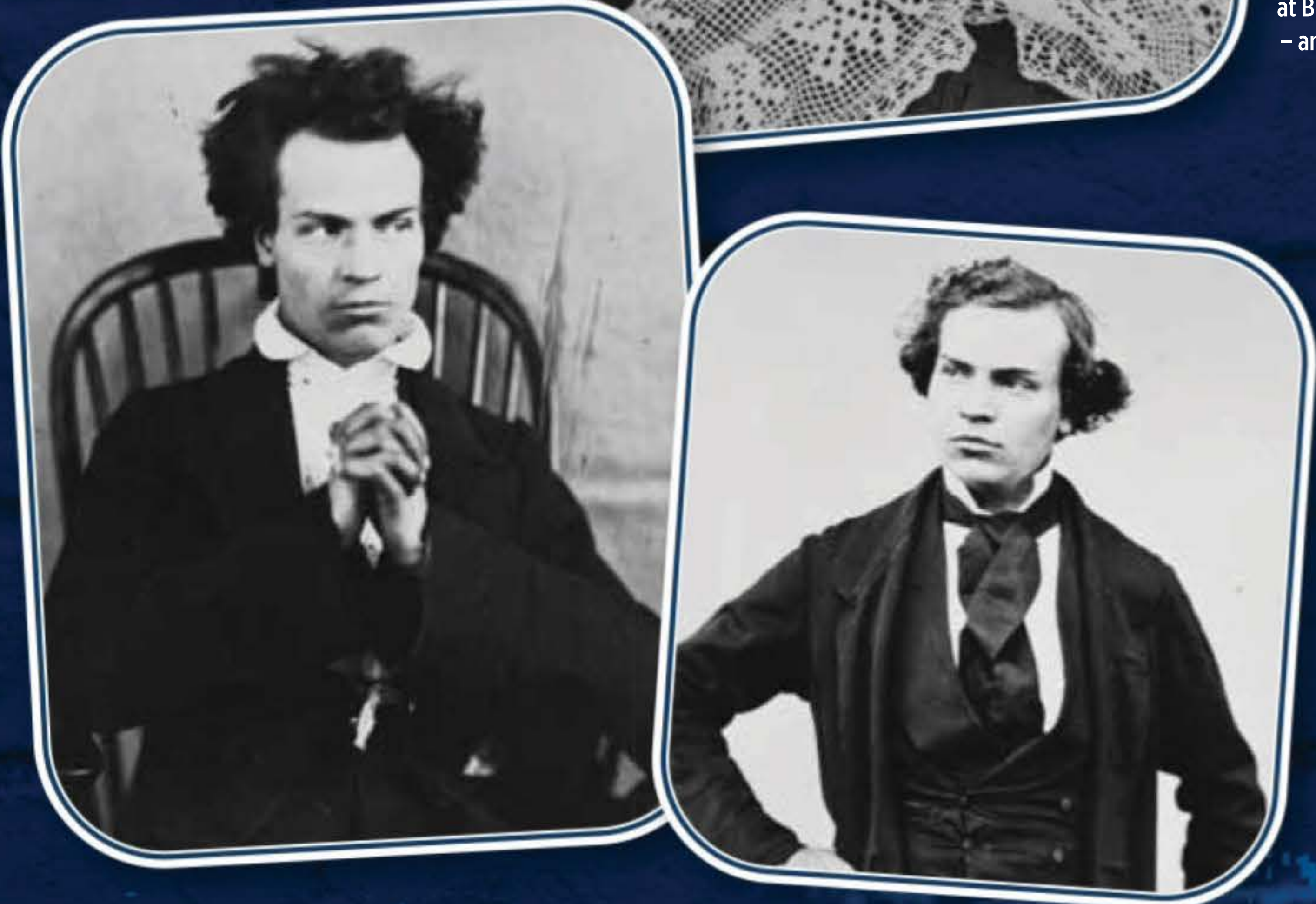
▲ **Eliza Camplin**
Admitted: 1857 | Diagnosis: acute mania
A labourer's wife, 36-year-old Eliza spent around eight months in Bethlem and was discharged having "continued to behave well and rationally" for some weeks. Prior to this image being taken, Eliza is recorded as having "made some objection to her own dress and she at length made it a condition of her sitting quietly that she should be represented with a book in her hand".



► **Thomas (*seated*) and John Bailey**
Admitted: 1858
Diagnosis: acute melancholia
Sixty-nine-year-old Thomas Bailey was admitted to Bethlem suffering from melancholia triggered by the death of his wife; just weeks later his son, John (44), joined him. Thomas stayed at Bethlem until his death, but John was eventually discharged, albeit uncured.

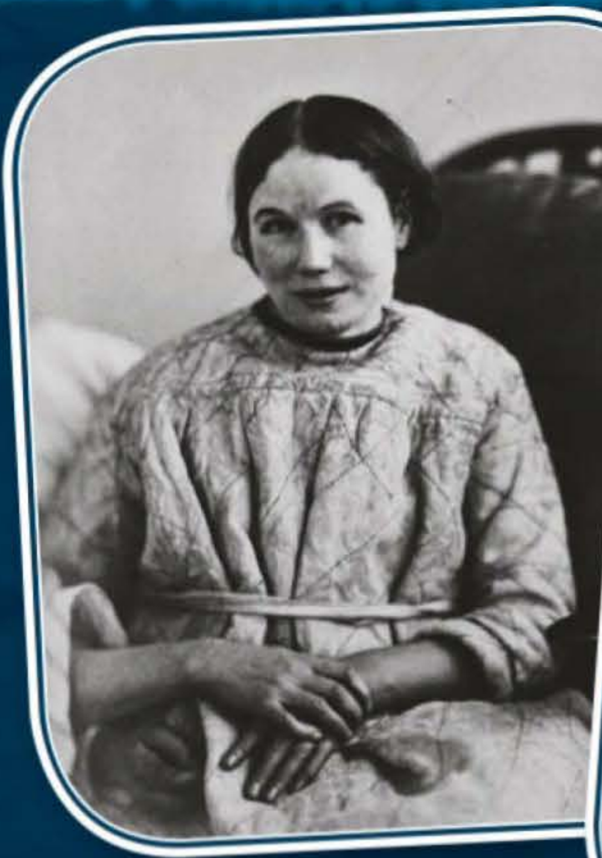


◄ **Elizabeth Thew**
Admitted: 1852
Diagnosis: epileptic mania (*also charged with infanticide*)
Elizabeth was admitted to Bethlem after being tried for the murder of her two-month-old infant. A sufferer of severe epileptic fits, Elizabeth spent ten years at Bethlem before being released – and granted a royal pardon.



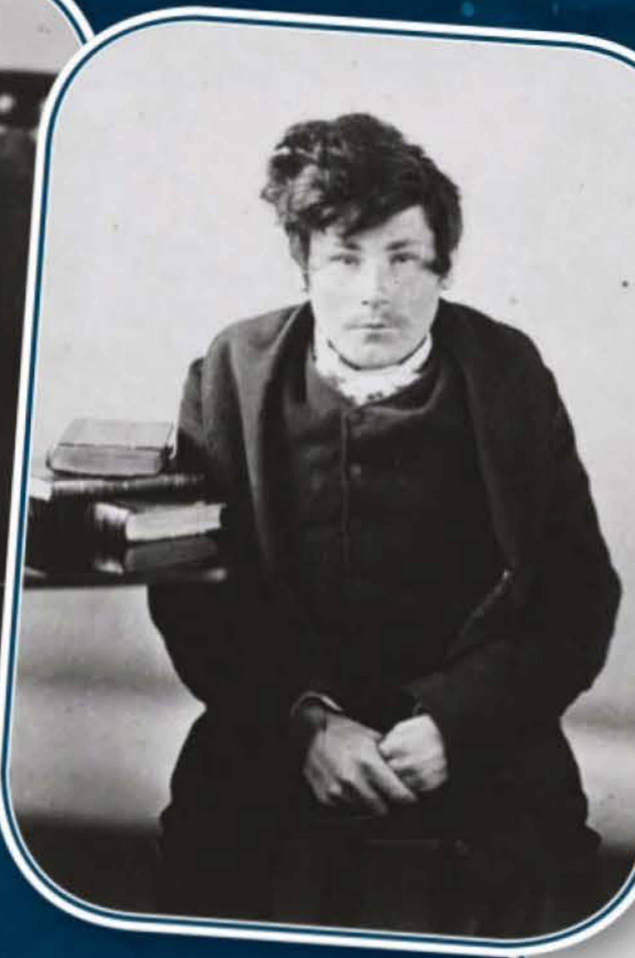
◄ **William Thomas Green**
Admitted: 1857
Diagnosis: acute mania
Pictured here at his admission (*far left*) and during convalescence (*left*), William Thomas Green spent almost a year at Bethlem. It's unclear why such 'before and after' images were taken during the 1850s – one theory is that they were designed to demonstrate the success of the hospital's new regime.

ALL IMAGES © BETHLEM MUSEUM OF THE MIND



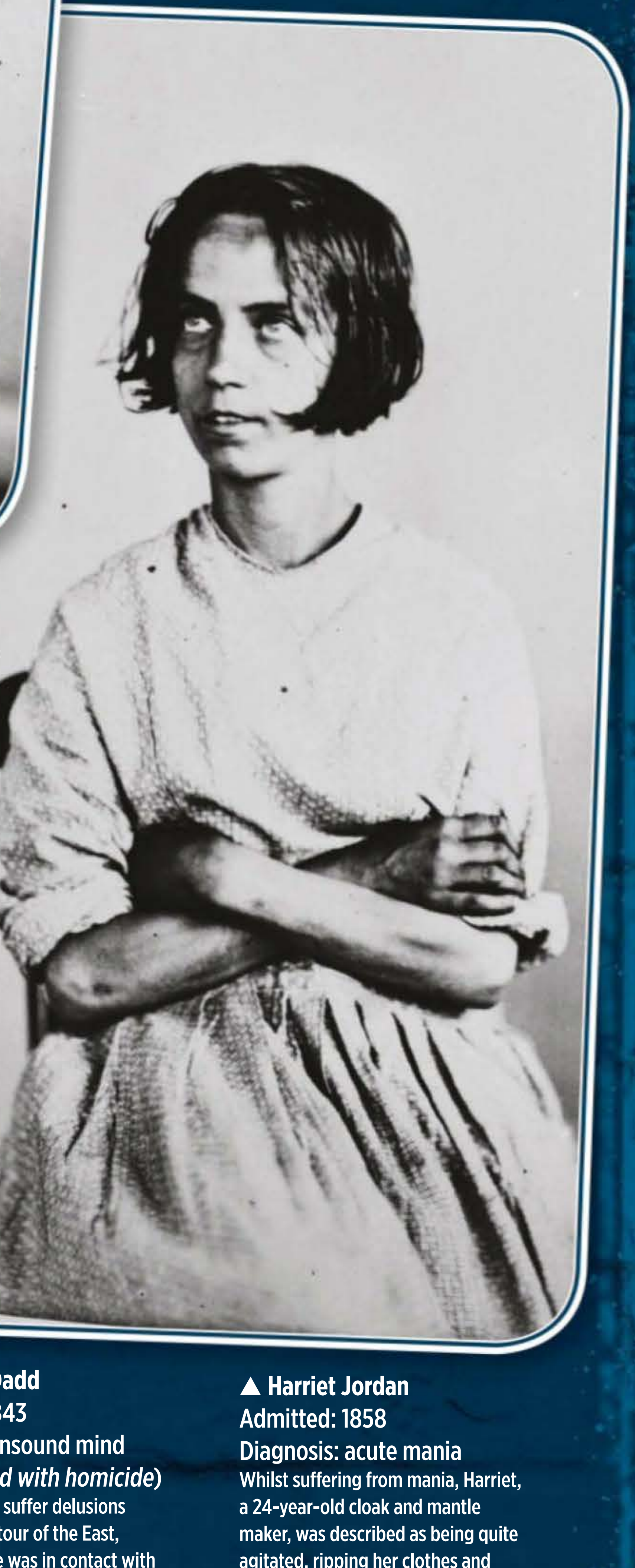
▲ Emma Riches
Admitted: 1857
Diagnosis: puerperal mania

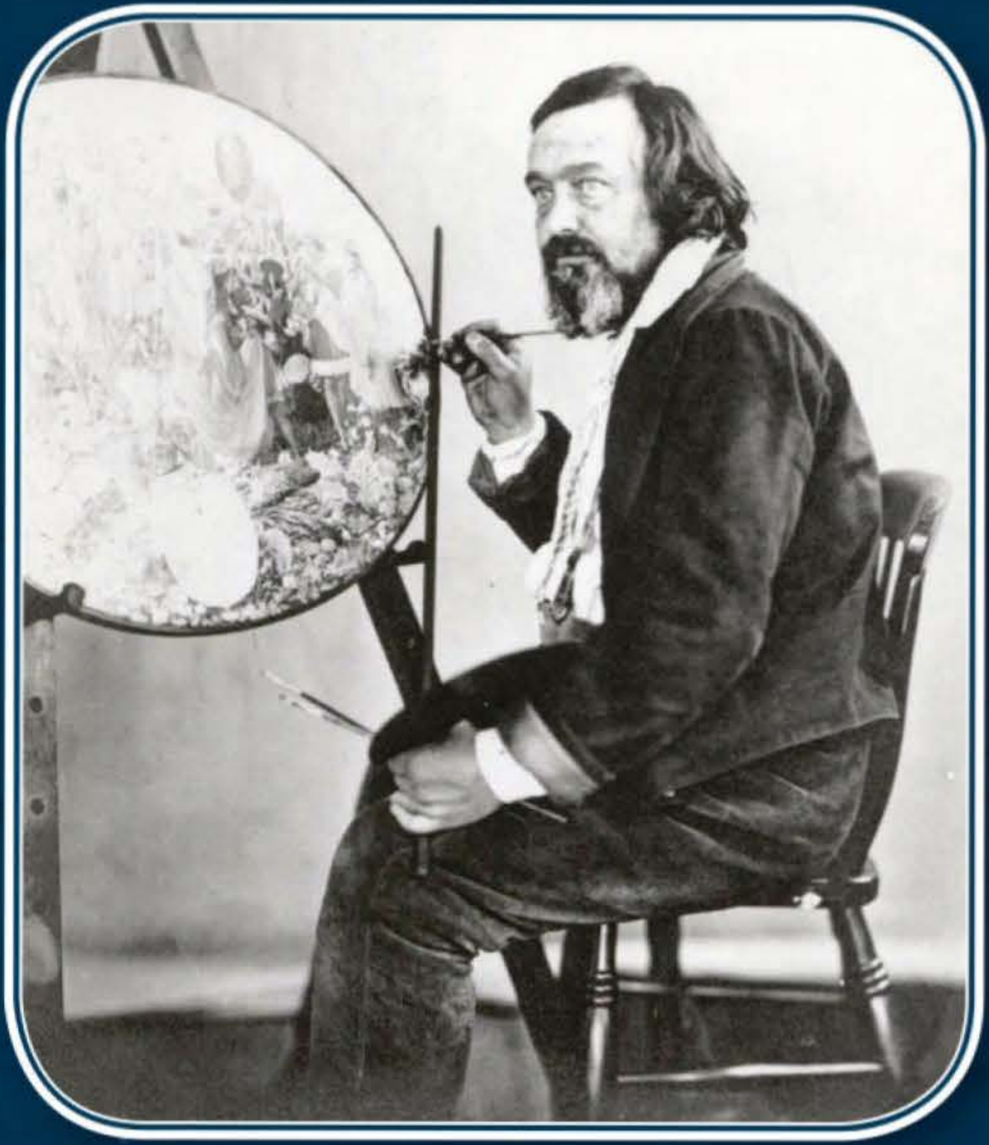
Aged 24, Emma was admitted a few weeks after the birth of her fourth child with what we would now class as postnatal depression. Pictured here wearing a 'strong dress' – made of canvas so that it could not be torn by distressed patients – Emma's left hand is being restrained by an attendant. She recovered and was discharged the following year.



▲ Charles Broadfoot Westron
Admitted: 1856
Diagnosis: mania (*also charged with homicide*)

After shooting a man through the heart, 25-year-old Westron escaped the hangman's noose on the grounds of insanity and was transferred instead to Bethlem.





◀ Richard Dadd
Admitted: 1843
Diagnosis: Unsound mind (*also charged with homicide*)

Dadd started to suffer delusions during a grand tour of the East, claiming that he was in contact with Egyptian gods. In August 1843, he murdered his father, believing him to be the Devil, and was sent to Bethlem. A talented artist, Dadd created many of his most famous works whilst incarcerated.

▲ Harriet Jordan
Admitted: 1858
Diagnosis: acute mania

Whilst suffering from mania, Harriet, a 24-year-old cloak and mantle maker, was described as being quite agitated, ripping her clothes and being generally destructive. She was discharged just a few months later, however, having become "convalescent: quiet, industrious and well-behaved".

FAMOUS BEDLAMITES

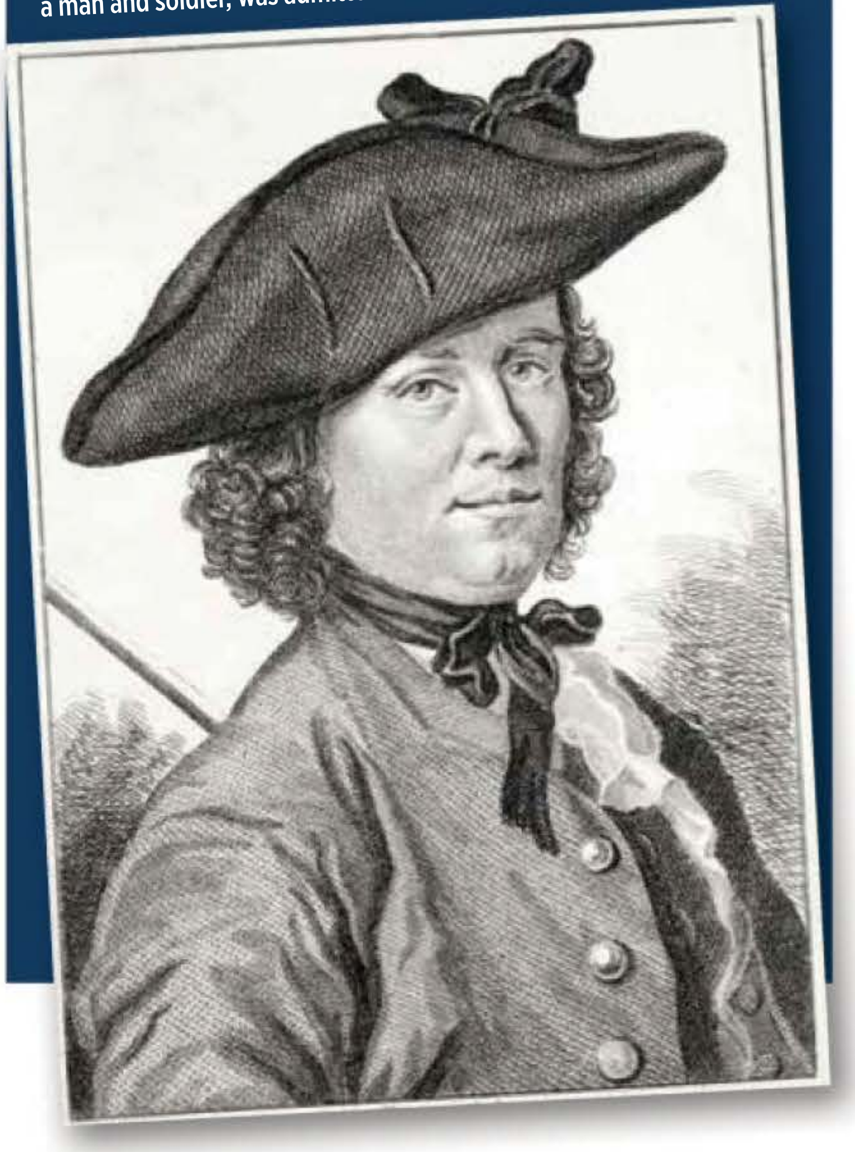
One of the more unexpected consequences of Bethlem's 'tourist industry' is that several of the patients found wider fame...

During the years when Bethlem admitted paying visitors, some of its patients achieved minor celebrity status in London. There were a number of must-see patients, among them Oliver Cromwell's melancholic porter Daniel, the politico-religious dissenter Richard Stafford and an assortment of academics, musicians and poets for whom the stress of life had proved too much to bear.

A ban on visitors in the 1780s meant that the faces and names of so-called Bedlamites were unfamiliar to the public, but this did not mean that the hospital was devoid of celebrity inmates. Periodically, well-known people would be admitted to the wards, leading to tongue-wagging among the populace. Margaret Nicholson and James Hadfield were famous 'criminal lunatics' after their separate attempts to kill King George III, while the intellectual revolutionary James Tilly Matthews became famous for his complex conspiracy theories about the political and aristocratic establishment.

In August 1791 the hospital admitted a bona fide Georgian celebrity, the so-called sexual impostor Hannah Snell. Earlier in the century she had adopted a male persona, joined the army and fought for several years in India. She was wounded in battle but maintained her secret until, in 1750 she announced to her fellow soldiers, "I am as much a woman as my mother ever was." Scandal and celebrity followed, but many years later Snell was admitted to Bethlem suffering from what may have been the early signs of dementia.

Hannah Snell, who spent some of her life disguised as a man and soldier, was admitted to Bethlem in 1791



> "In those parts that were habitable, MPs found small, fetid cells populated by several people chained to walls or beds"

similar conditions elsewhere, most notably the York Asylum, had led to the development of a coherent reformist movement whose influence was beginning to be felt inside Parliament. With legislation threatened, Bethlem's governors used their considerable influence to keep the hospital exempted from outside scrutiny. This succeeded for several years until 1814, when campaigner Edward Wakefield and a small group of MPs gained admission to Bethlem's wards. The visit had been rebuffed for weeks by Bethlem's staff and it soon became apparent why.

Inside the building it was stark, dirty and cold, with no glazed windows or hot water. In those parts that were habitable MPs found small, fetid cells populated by several people chained to walls or their beds. Many were "stark naked" with just a single blanket to protect them from the cold and rats. This included Anna Stone, whose treatment was called an act of "disgusting idiocy". Patients' limbs were found to be crippled with cold and subject to injury by the "raving patients" with whom they were chained.

The sight that most shocked the committee was that of James Norris, described as a clear and lucid man, who had been tightly chained by his neck to an iron bar in the wall. With additional metal restraints on his chest, waist, feet and arms, Norris complained that his muscles were atrophied and painful following a decade of confinement. The staff described Norris as violent and dangerous but to the MPs he seemed quiet and perhaps even sane. The inspectors had seen enough and called for a Parliamentary inquiry into conditions at Bethlem.

During the inquiry the medical staff fared poorly, with the apothecary blaming others for the squalor while the doctor, Thomas Monro, argued that nothing the MPs had seen was amiss. The drunken and insane surgeon, Crowther, could not be interviewed as he had died a few weeks previously (as had James Norris himself).

Bethlem's medical staff were dismissed, but the hospital's governors

The old Bethlem Hospital in St George's Fields; it's now home to the Imperial War Museum

were not ones to have their authority challenged – they immediately appointed Thomas Monro's son Edward as the new doctor. It was an act of defiance that enraged reformers, but not the House of Lords, which blocked attempts at bringing Bethlem under official regulation.

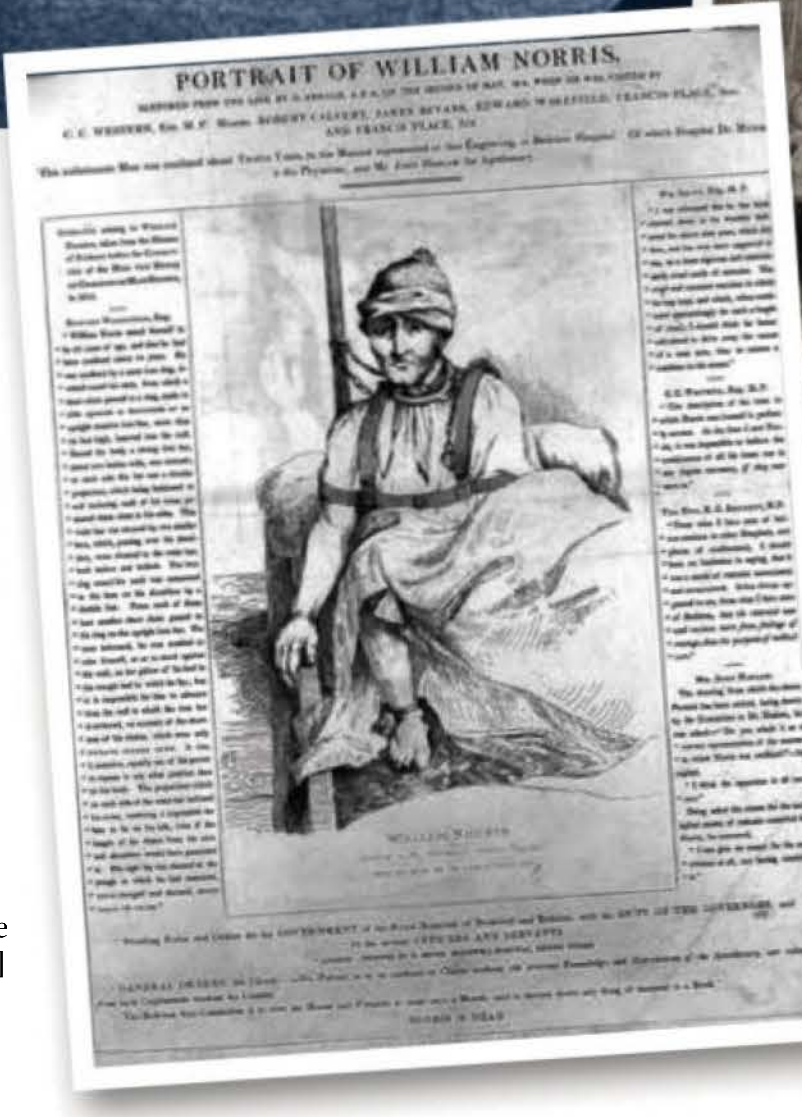
THE FARCE'S LAST ACT

In 1815, Bethlem was moved from its collapsing Moorfields site to a brand new building at St George's Fields, south of the Thames. Lessons had been learned and the combination of a new building and new staff members brought about reforms of the sort that Wakefield and others had been calling for. An 1818 report found patients "clean, amply supplied with wholesome provisions and well clothed [with none] under restraint". A financial audit suggested that the hospital was solvent and generally well-managed.

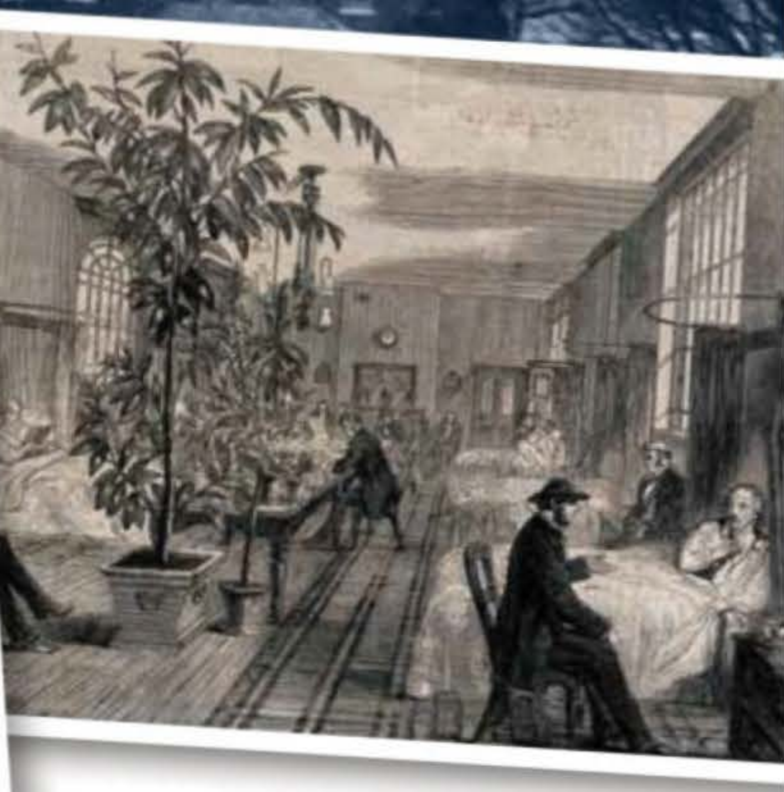
Patient care and finances had improved but individual problems still arose – such as the discovery, in 1830, of apothecary Edward Wright in the female galleries drunk and with his clothing dishevelled. When asked about Wright's duties, a colleague replied: "Smoking and opening and taking off the heads of the dead patients occasionally." It transpired that Wright had developed a Frankenstein-like fascination with the dead and had created his own laboratory in the hospital's basement. Wright's secret was out; he was immediately dismissed.

These instances, and two further financial scandals, did not directly concern the treatment of living patients and so Bethlem was exempted from legislation passed in 1828, 1832 and 1845, continuing to operate outside the law. Protests by reformers became more vocal until, in 1853, Bethlem's exemption from outside inspection was ended. After more than six centuries, the hospital was no longer independent. "The farce has been played out to the last act," wrote *The Lancet*.

This drew a line under Bethlem's notoriety and ensured that afterwards the hospital would no longer be a place of dread and fear. In 1930, Bethlem was relocated to Beckenham in Kent, where it continues as a psychiatric hospital (now within the London borough of Bromley). ⊙


PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM NORRIS.

ABOVE: **James Norris (named William in the press) was left chained to a vertical iron bar in his cell**



ABOVE RIGHT: **Conditions within Bethlem were much improved after external inspections were introduced in the mid 19th century, but its notoriety remains**

PAUL CHAMBERS is author of ***Bedlam: London's Hospital for the Mad***, recently released in paperback by The History Press

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

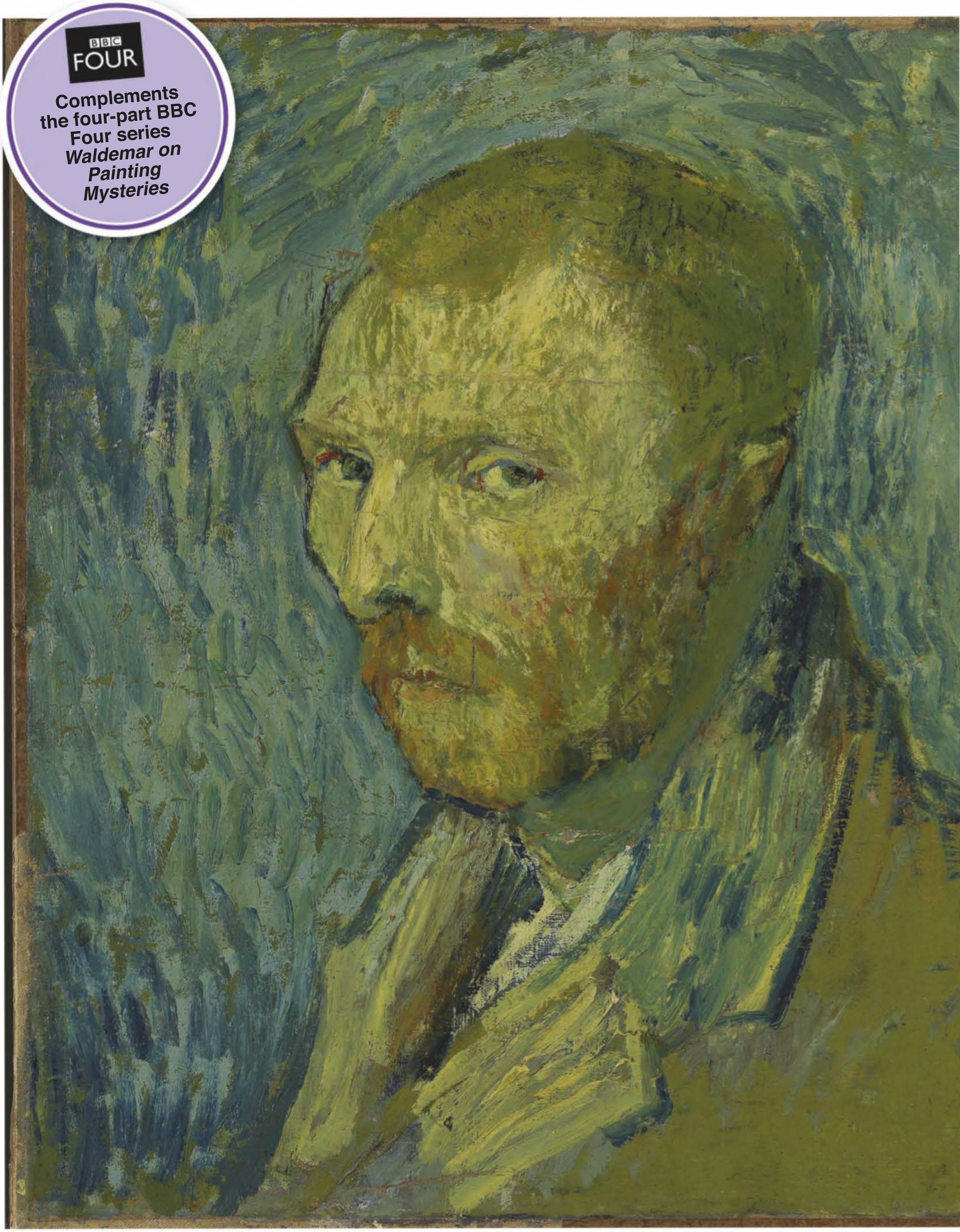
Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the early years of Bethlem Hospital in an episode of *In Our Time*.
bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0739rfg

VISIT

Bethlem Museum of the Mind records the lives and experience and celebrates the achievements of people with mental health problems. It's based at Bethlem Royal Hospital, Beckenham.
museumofthemind.org.uk

ALAMY X1, GETTY IMAGES X1, WELLCOME COLLECTION X2

Complements the four-part BBC Four series *Waldemar on Painting Mysteries*



MAIN: THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN/NORWAY, OPPOSITE PAGE: AKG-IMAGES

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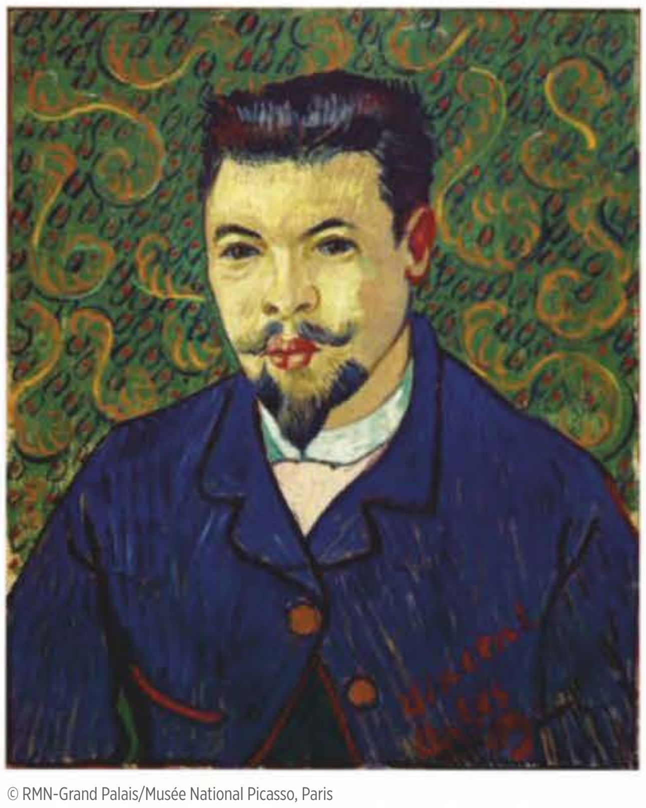
THE SLOW DECLINE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH

What happened to cause a painter at the peak of his creativity to mutilate his own ear? Art historian **Bernadette Murphy** delves into the mysteries of Van Gogh's final months

On 24 December 1888 in Arles, a small town in southern France, young Louis Rey woke up extremely excited. It was his birthday, and as a special treat Louis was going to spend the day with his brother Félix, a junior doctor at the public hospital. Hoping to follow in his footsteps, Louis couldn't wait to be his brother's shadow for a whole day.

Late December was a quiet time of year at the hospital, so Louis could barely contain himself when, mid-morning, a horse-drawn ambulance rattled into the courtyard. Dr Félix Rey gave instructions for the semi-conscious man to be taken directly to the emergency room on the ground floor, and gestured for Louis to follow.



LEFT: **For a long time it was contested as to whether this painting, 'Self Portrait', c1889, was really by Van Gogh**

RIGHT: **'Portrait of Doctor Félix Rey', January 1889**

© RMN-Grand Palais/Musée National Picasso, Paris

The young boy left his recollections of the patient that was treated that Christmas Eve morning: "Around his head he wore a grubby piece of cloth, like farmers do if they have toothache. Félix carefully unwrapped the cloth and I noticed that the rags were soaked with blood along one side of the head. Using hydrogen peroxide my brother carefully detached the primitive bandage which was stuck to the victim's cheek because the blood had coagulated. I watched the operation closely..."

Louis then realised that the dishevelled man was someone he had seen around town for some months – a strange-looking man with bright red hair and piercing blue eyes.

"My brother brought the bleeding to a stop and disinfected the wound. Then he put on a clean bandage around his head and I had the honour of handing him the scissors. Félix now called the head nurse with whom he completed the formalities to take the injured man to hospital ward."

Neither brother would ever forget that day, the strange patient, nor what they saw...

MAN OF MYSTERY

Vincent van Gogh is among the world's most popular artists, his paintings – now worth millions – spread through museums all over the world. Yet, Van Gogh's career was short he sold very few works in his lifetime – and he only painted full-time for the last five years of his life. From the sombre tones of 'The Potato Eaters' (1885), Van Gogh's art burst into colour during ▶

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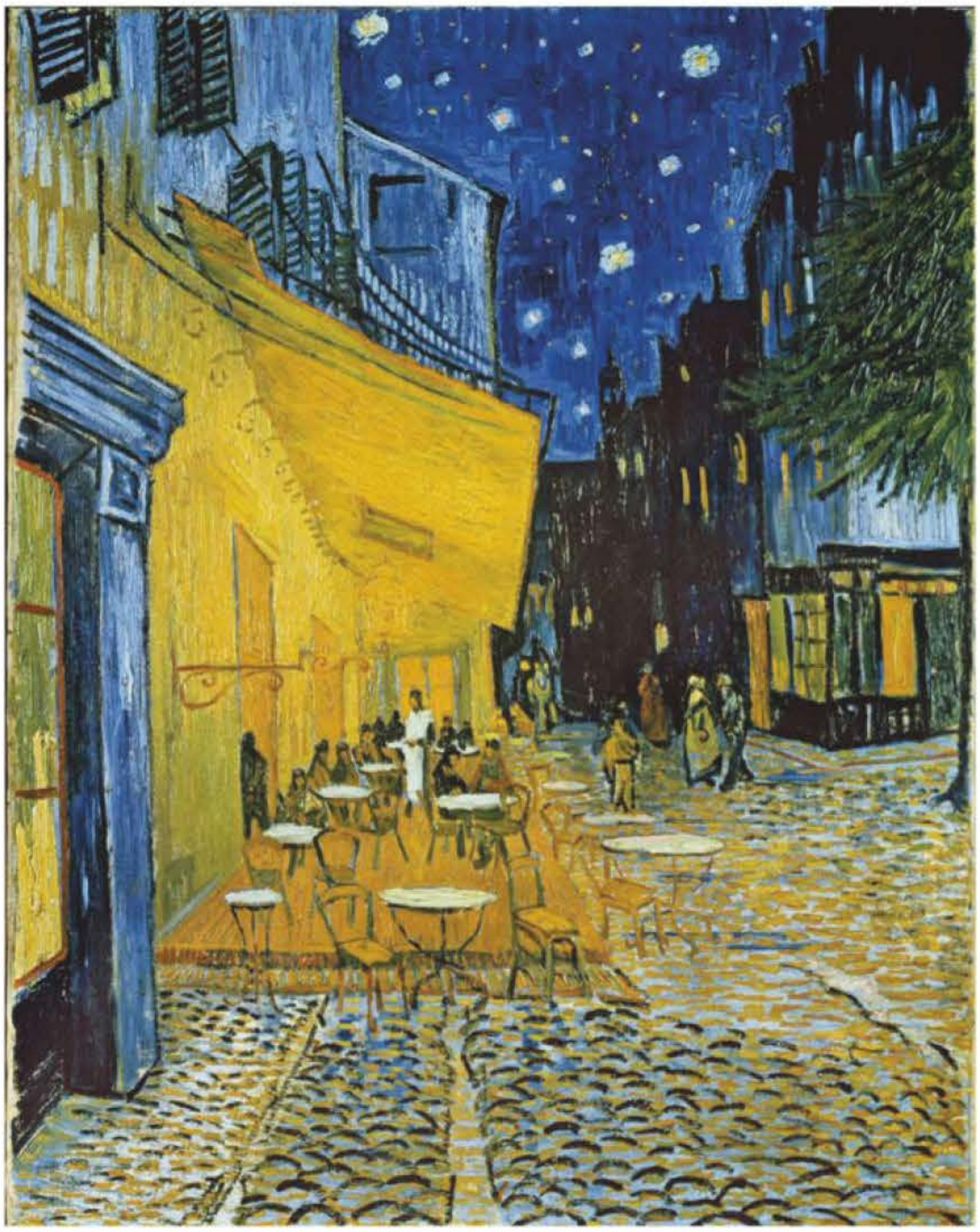

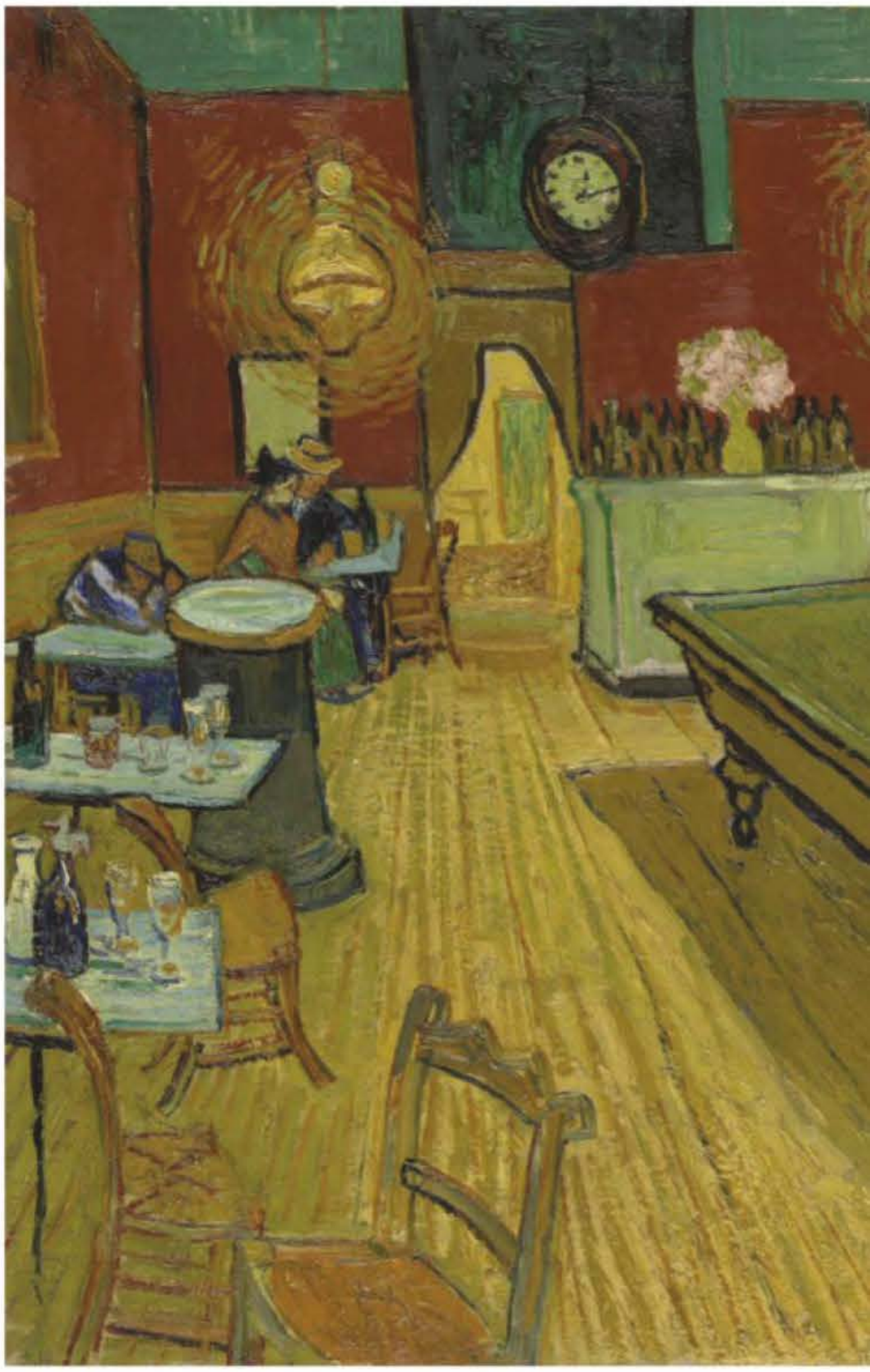

ABOVE: **'The Night Café', 1888**

ABOVE LEFT: **'The Café Terrace on the Place du Forum', also known as 'Café Terrace at Night', 1888**

"Van Gogh's life has become a tragic tale in which fact and fiction have become blurred"

◄ the short time he spent in Provence, creating his greatest work in Arles in 1888. Reproduced as souvenirs and posters, these paintings with their strong, bright colours are familiar to us all.

Van Gogh isn't known simply for his painting, though, but for a strange incident in his private life, which extends far beyond the art world. This part of his life story has made him unique. He is the man who 'cut off his ear'.

Ever since his death in 1890, Van Gogh's life has become a tragic tale in which fact and fiction have become blurred. This 'Vincent' a half starved, shabby figure, with no money nor friends, pushed his creativity to its limit "under the burning heat of the southern sun" and so went mad. This is the legend, but little of it is true.

Amongst all the great artworks that Van Gogh painted in Arles, two stand out and are still compelling 130 years after the brush was applied to canvas. At the time they were painted, 'Mr Vincent' as he was known in Arles was living at 2, place Lamartine, the so called Yellow House. Completed a week apart, they bear similar names one is titled 'Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear', the other 'Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear and Pipe'. Both show the artist trying to comprehend his breakdown, courageously displaying himself at his lowest ebb with a unique, raw honesty. These paintings resonate with, and haunt, the spectator they are unforgettable.

FAKE NEWS?

Arriving in Arles some ten months previously, Van Gogh suffered a complete mental breakdown on 23 December 1888.

For many years, a report in the local newspaper *Le Forum Républicain* was the sole proof that the drama had even taken place. Its editorial ran as follows.

"Arles - last Sunday, at half-past eleven in the evening, Vincent Vaugogh [sic] a painter, a native of Holland, turned up at the 'House of Tolerance no. 1' (a brothel), asked for a certain Rachel, and handed her … his ear, telling her: 'Keep this object carefully.' Then he disappeared."

An eyewitness to the event seems to refute the newspaper story, however. In March 1889, the painter Paul Signac had visited the hospital in Arles and clearly recalled that Van Gogh had "cut off the lobe (and not the whole ear)". Had the local newspaper exaggerated the nature of Van Gogh's injury? Indeed, what had happened to the ear itself? Who was the enigmatic Rachel at the House of Tolerance no. 1 that night?

Painter Paul Gauguin, who had been sharing a house with Van Gogh, adds further confusion to the drama, with his two differing versions of the evening. In his 1903 autobiography Gauguin maintains he was threatened by Van Gogh with a cut-throat razor, yet there is no mention of this in an account to a

AKG-IMAGES X1, GETTY IMAGES X2, YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY X1

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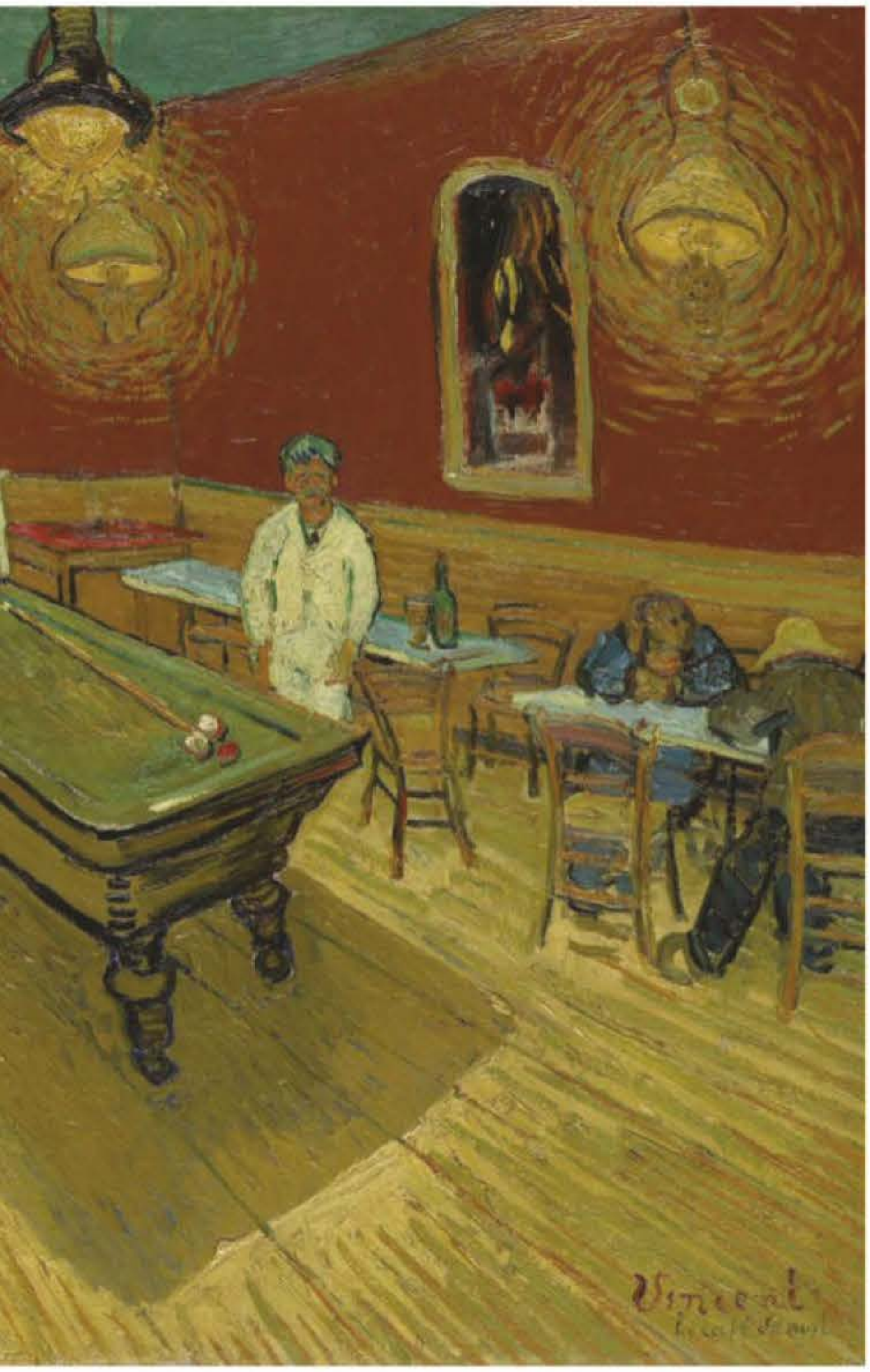

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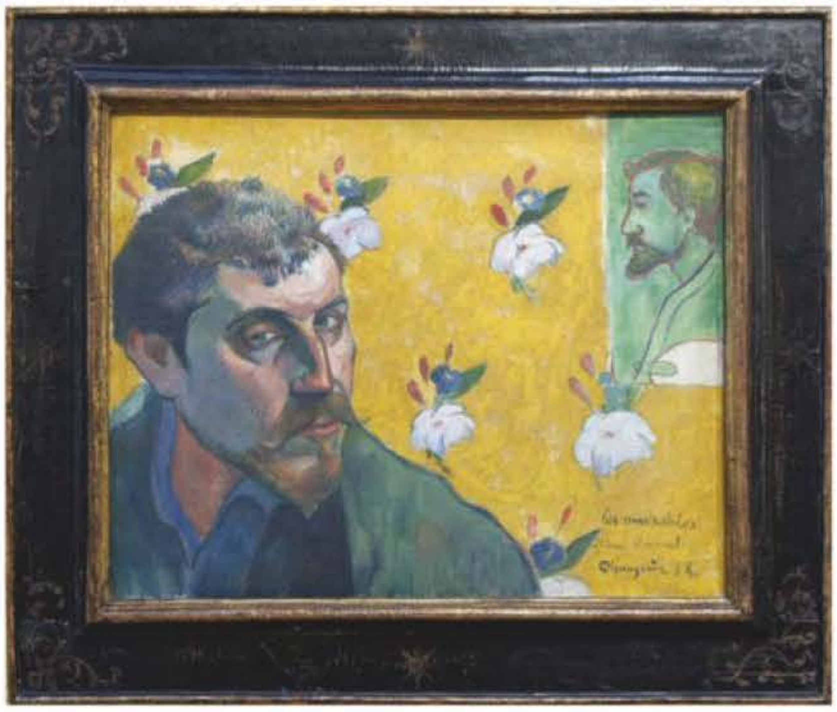


'Self-Portrait with Portrait of Émile Bernard (Les Miserables)', 1888, by Paul Gauguin – who lived with Van Gogh in Arles

fellow artist given four days after the drama.

Attempts by doctors to get Van Gogh to explain his actions also failed. "When I tried to get him to talk about the motive that drove him to cut off his ear, he replied that it was a purely personal

▶

GAUGUIN AND VAN GOGH AT HOME

When Gauguin moved to Arles in 1888 to lodge with Van Gogh, it seemed the 'Studio of the South' would become a reality – but artistic differences soon surfaced…

At the beginning of 1888, Paul Gauguin had written to Van Gogh from Pont Aven in Brittany. He was unable to work as he was suffering from dysentery, malaria and hepatitis contracted during a trip he had made to Martinique a few months previously. Although he didn't really know Van Gogh, he thought he might be able to put in a good word for him with his brother, Theo, an art-dealer in Paris.

On hearing of Gauguin's troubles, Van Gogh hatched a plan. Gauguin could keep him company, he told Theo, and give the brothers a painting per month in return for board and lodging. It was a perfect arrangement enabling Vincent to fulfil his dream of creating a brotherhood of artists in Arles, a 'Studio of the South'.

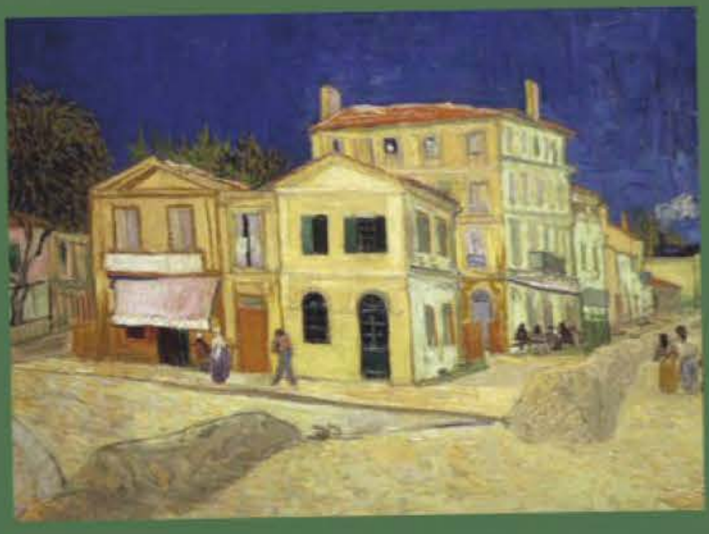
After prevaricating all summer, Paul Gauguin finally arrived in Arles on 23 October 1888. Right from the start, there were signs that all was not well. On 25 October, Gauguin wrote to Theo: "I've been in Arles since Tuesday morning … however, your brother is a little agitated and I hope to gradually calm him down."

Gauguin was in a difficult position. He was not only indebted to Theo for the cost of the journey to Arles, he had also made a promise to Van Gogh. But things seemed to get better. Gauguin organised the house – he was a good cook – and its finances, creating a box for cash, tobacco, food, and 'hygienic visits', the latter a euphemism for visiting the nearby brothels.

However, there was much to differentiate the two men, Gauguin was worldly: married with five children, he had travelled the world as a sailor, worked on the stock exchange and was becoming recognised as an artist. Van Gogh was single, had never held a job for long, dreamt of having a wife and family and had not yet sold any of his paintings. Their techniques were different, too. Gauguin thought long and hard about his compositions, creating 17 paintings in the nine weeks he spent in Arles, whereas Vincent painted rapidly, producing at least 34 canvases in the same period. Moreover, Gauguin had come to Arles with the belief that he would be the master. Nothing prepared him for the work Vincent had been doing in those first few months in Arles. Van Gogh had become a great painter.

As the winter took hold, the two men were confined to the Yellow House, where their evening talks inevitably turned to art. For Gauguin, this was simply lively debate, but Van Gogh couldn't cope with anyone who disagreed with him. Thus, within weeks, Paul Gauguin found himself living in a tiny house in a rural backwater with a man who was clearly mentally ill.

By early December, Gauguin was plotting his escape, writing to Theo and friends in Paris that he couldn't continue sharing a house with Vincent. Stuck indoors (as it had been raining for several days) Van Gogh began showing increased signs of mental disturbance. On 23 December, Gauguin packed his bags and prepared to leave…



Van Gogh's 'The Yellow House', 1888 – it was here he and Paul Gauguin lived

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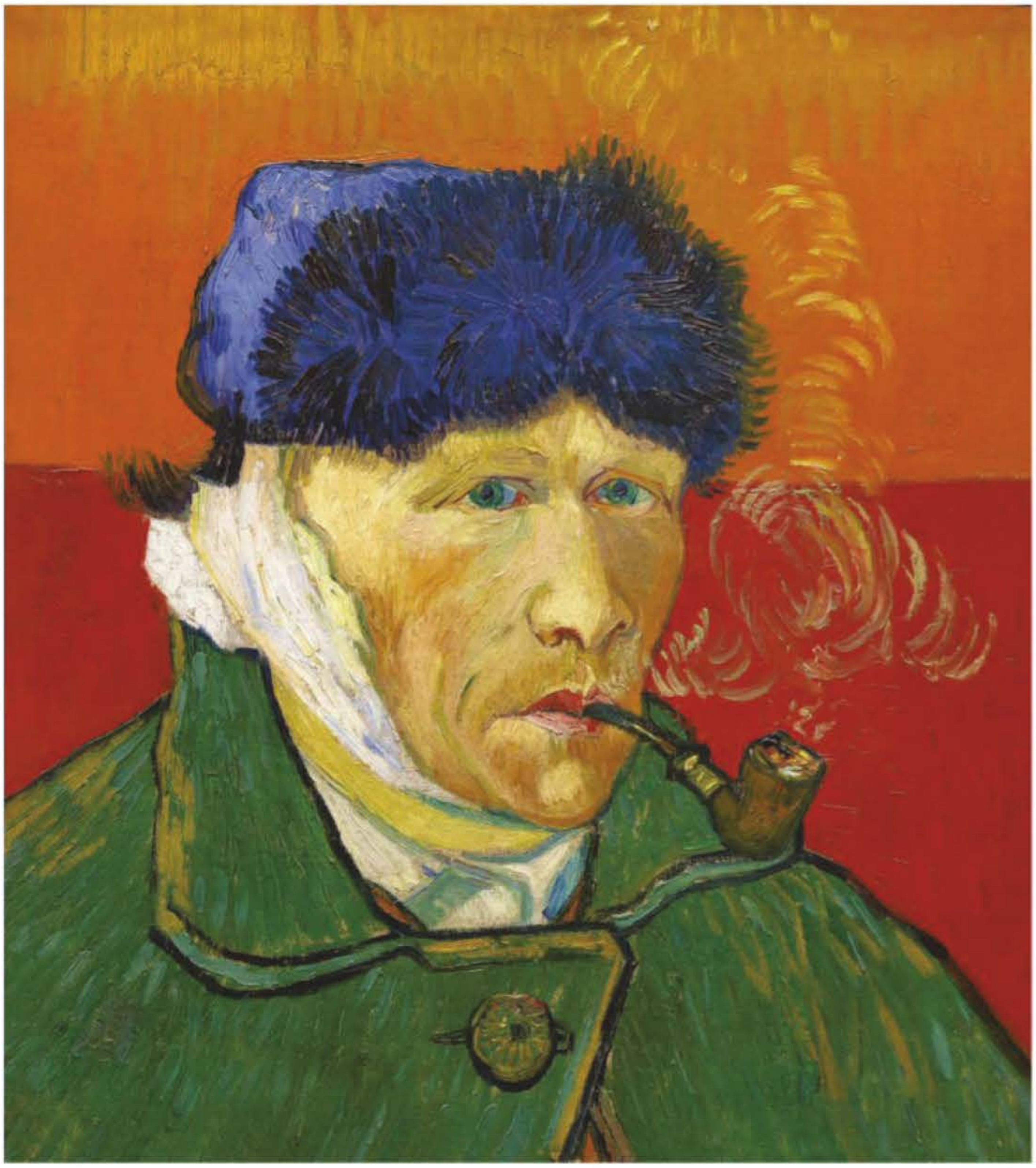

“His dream of creating a ‘Studio of the South’ in Arles was in tatters – he knew that no other artist would wish to join him”

matter”, wrote Dr Félix Rey in a letter to Van Gogh’s brother, Theo, on 30 December 1888.

As for what lay beneath Van Gogh’s bandage what if the accepted history (that the artist severed his whole ear) was wrong? The two ‘Self Portraits with Bandaged Ear’ themselves raise all sorts of questions, only some of which are easily answered. At first glance, it appears that Van Gogh mutilated his right ear but to paint a self portrait an artist must look into a mirror, so the image is reversed; the injury was actually inflicted on his left ear. And though the colours in the fur hat and woollen jacket Van Gogh is wearing in both portraits seems slightly different, modern technical analysis has proved that both items of clothing were originally the same colour. In the intervening years, as the canvases aged in different locations and climatic conditions, the paint colours have altered.

Another question to consider, is whether Van Gogh would be having medical treatment more than two weeks after the event if he had *only* cut off his lobe, as Signac had maintained? The first canvas, ‘Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear and Pipe’ (*pictured right*) could only have been painted after Van Gogh had returned home on 7 January 1889. On a background of bright almost violent orange and red, it shows a haggard looking Van Gogh with sunken cheeks and bloodshot eyes, obviously still recovering from his injury. A large dressing over his injured ear is held in place by a tight bandage, giving his mouth a pinched expression. The bulkiness of the dressing two weeks after he had self harmed suggests that Van Gogh had some form of infection in his ear. The bandage is wound round his head, under his jawline and across his body. Certainly, it would have been difficult, if not almost impossible, to eat, talk and sleep. Small wonder, perhaps, that Van Gogh complained in letters that he was suffering from insomnia.

The second canvas, ‘Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear’, (*see opposite page*) shows Van Gogh wearing the same clothes, but this time with an easel and Japanese print clearly visible in the background. In this self portrait the dressing is closer to the head and the artist generally looks healthier overall. The colours of the painting are calmer and brighter blues and butter yellow which makes the painting appear more optimistic. It may have been completed just before Van Gogh had his last dressing removed around a week later, on 15 January.

The inclusion of the Japanese print in this self portrait is not merely a decorative device, but is highly significant. Van Gogh had a collection of more than 600 Japanese prints, which he had amassed in the months before moving to Arles. He was fascinated with their flat areas of colour and interesting perspectives, elements he found resolutely modern. To Van Gogh, Arles, with its sunlight, bright colours and simple lifestyle must have seemed a real life incarnation of these prints. Soon after arriving in the southern French town he had written to Theo: “My dear brother, you know, I feel I’m in Japan.”

Van Gogh’s discovery of Japanese art changed his painting and inspired some of his greatest artworks. The inclusion of the Japanese print and the easel in ‘Self Portrait with a Bandaged Ear’ was perhaps Van Gogh’s way of conveying that he was “getting back to work” and making a recovery. But in reality the artist was still extremely unwell, writing in a letter dated 17 January 1889: “I feel weak and a little anxious and fearful.”

DEATH OF DREAMS

With a place to live and work, Van Gogh had been very happy in Arles and had made great strides in his art. But on 23 December his whole world had been turned upside down. Although his house had been cleaned before he returned from hospital thanks to his friend, the postman Joseph Roulin in his letters to his brother, Theo, Van Gogh fretted about the extra expenses that the crisis was costing him; not only the hospital stay, the bandages and dressings, but also bedding and clothing that had needed

ALAMY X1, GETTY IMAGES X1

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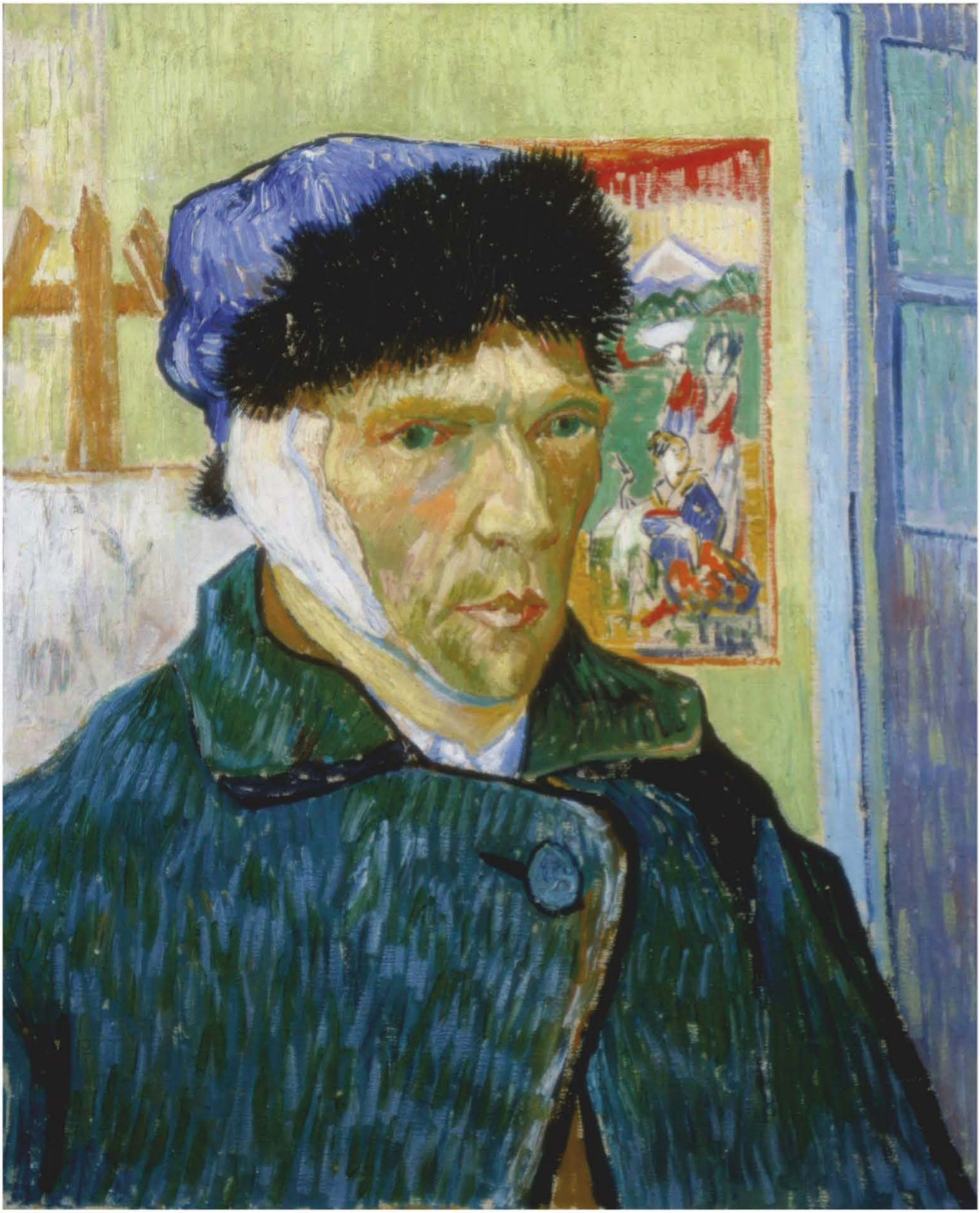
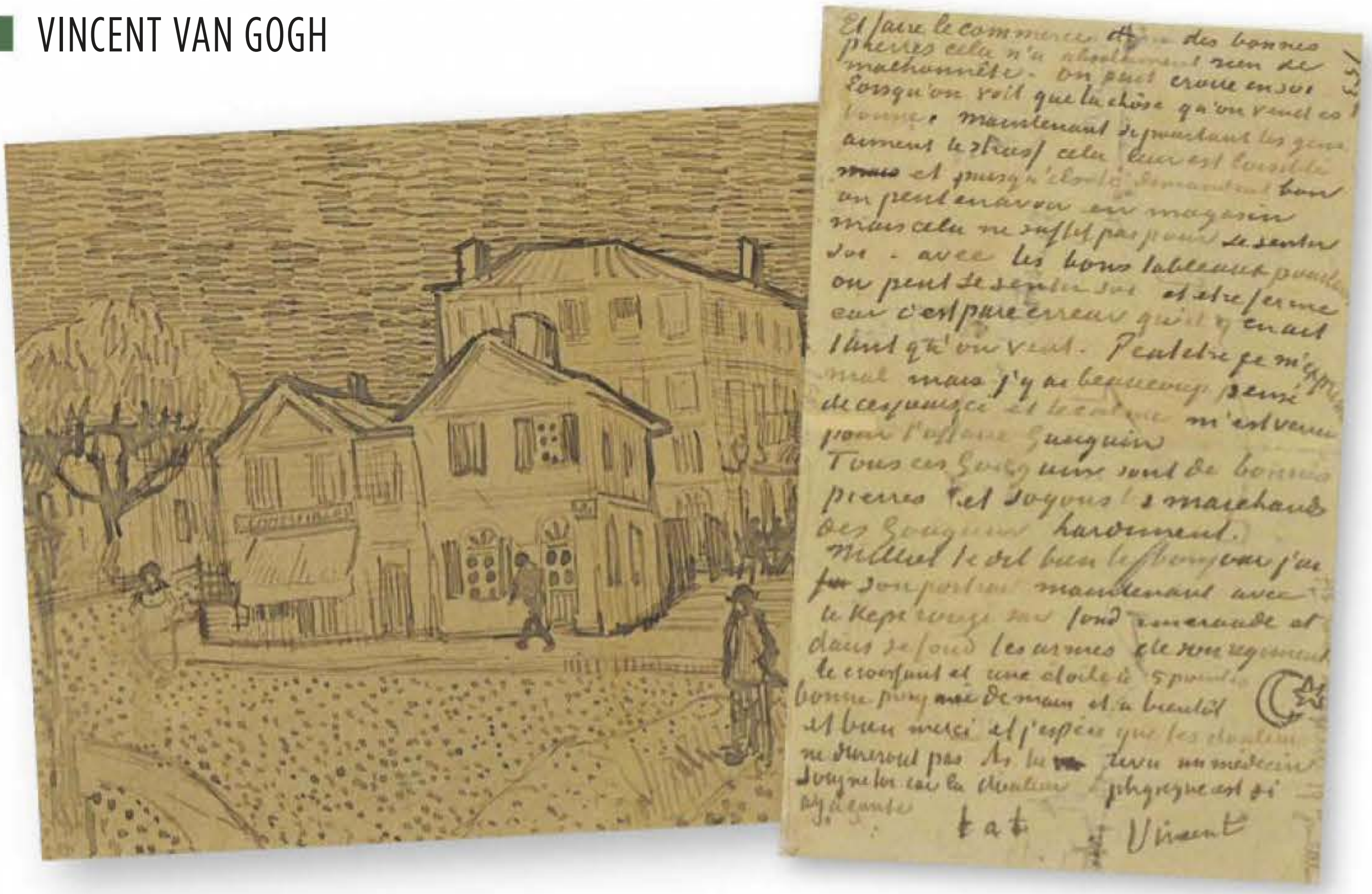


'Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear' (*above*) and 'Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear and Pipe' (*above left, opposite page*) were both painted shortly after Van Gogh's release from hospital in January 1889



Vincent wrote to his brother Theo frequently, sometimes including sketches – this one is of the Yellow House in Arles

◀ to be replaced.

Van Gogh's dream of creating a 'Studio of the South' in Arles was in tatters – he knew that no other artist would wish to join him - and he had also succeeded in frightening the people who lived around place Lamartine. In the wake of his breakdown, the only person Van Gogh could rely on was Roulin, but on 21 January the postman was transferred to Marseille. With his neighbours studiously avoiding him, Van Gogh's day-to-day existence became increasingly difficult. Local children began climbing onto the window-sills of the Yellow House, peering through the windows to catch a glimpse of the 'crazy man', taunting him mercilessly.

When, in early February, Van Gogh had another mental crisis, he was taken back to the hospital by the police and sequestered in a special cell. The wheels were set in motion by 30 local inhabitants, who sent a petition to the mayor requesting that he be committed to an asylum. In it they declared Van Gogh 'is not in full possession of his mental faculties, and [is] a cause for fear to all the residents of the neighbourhood".

In May 1889, Van Gogh left the city and voluntarily entered Saint-Paul-de-Mausole asylum in Saint-Rémy. Fifteen months later, aged just 37, the troubled artist shot himself and later died from his injuries. ⊙

BERNADETTE MURPHY is an author and art historian. Her most recent book, *Van Gogh's Ear: The True Story* – the product of a seven-year investigation into the artist – was published in 2016 by Chatto & Windus. It later became the subject of a BBC Two documentary, presented by Jeremy Paxman and Bernadette Murphy.

GET HOOKED

WATCH

BBC FOUR Van Gogh's 'Self-Portrait With Bandaged Ear' will be explored in *Waldemar on Painting Mysteries*, which airs on BBC Four in March

THE MYSTERY OF VAN GOGH'S ILLNESS

Mental illness wasn't well understood in the 19th century – but what do we know today?

In late 19th-century France, all forms of mental illness were grouped under the general term of 'epilepsy'. There was little specialist study of mental illness and no cure. A patient was either placed in the overcrowded state asylum where life-expectancy was low (mostly due to tuberculosis) or if the family had the means – as was the case for Van Gogh – in a private rest home.

After a year spent in the rest home in Saint Rémy, and feeling he was making no progress, mid-May 1890 saw Van Gogh leave for Auvers-sur-Oise so that he could be nearer to his brother Theo in Paris. He lived for a further nine weeks before shooting himself in the chest. He died of his injuries two days later, on 29 July.

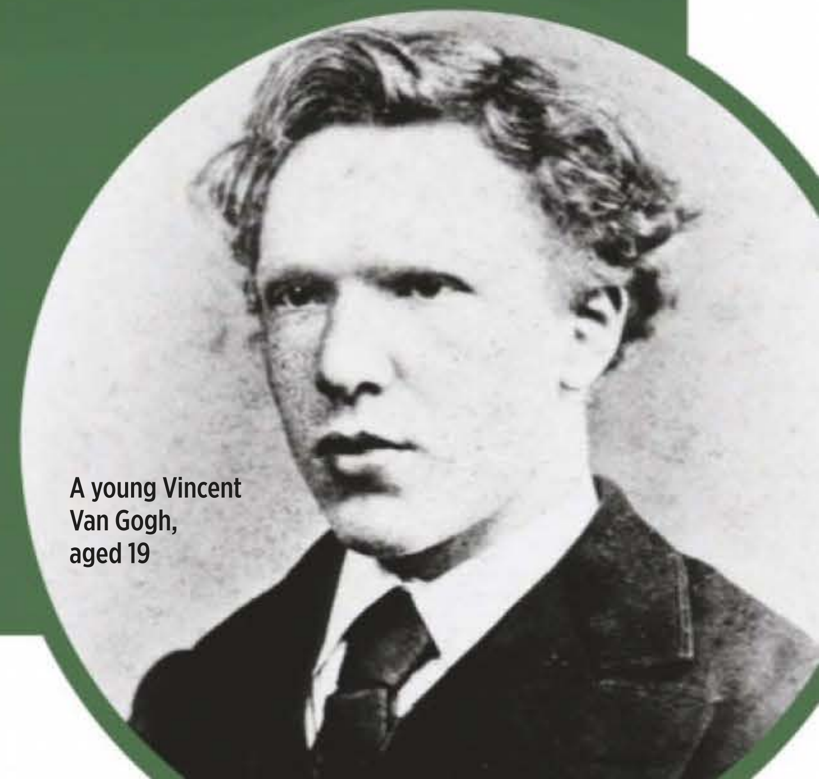
Van Gogh had suffered with mental illness all his life; his parents had tried to get him committed in 1870, when he was 17. Mental health problems were also present in the wider Van Gogh family as his hospital notes from Saint Rémy reveal: 'He tells us that his mother's sister was epileptic, and that there were several other cases in his family'.

Among Vincent's five siblings, two died in asylums and two died by suicide. For any 19th-century family, mental illness was utterly incomprehensible and incurable. Van Gogh's heirs and early historians preferred to highlight his artistic achievements, so it wasn't until the 1950s that the artist's mental illness became the subject of academic study.

Any discussion of Van Gogh's illness is hampered by the lack of concrete facts. The only recorded symptoms were that he was seen trying to eat coal and paint, and that he suffered visual and aural hallucinations. Many specialists have found something in his symptoms that they feel solves the puzzle of his illness, though these theories depend on who is doing the talking: a psychiatrist will make a psychiatric diagnosis; a neurologist, a neurological disorder, and so on.

Fashions in psychiatry have also played their part. In 1991, American doctor Russell R Monroe analysed 152 academic papers written about Van Gogh's illness between 1922 and 1981. The most frequent conclusions were that Van Gogh was suffering from epilepsy (55 times), psychosis (41), schizophrenia (13), character/personality disorder (10) and bipolar disorder (9).

In 2016 – following my [Bernadette Murphy's] discovery of a drawing by Dr Rey in the US – the Van Gogh Museum held an exhibition entitled *Van Gogh: On the Verge of Insanity*. For the first time experts in fields such as epilepsy, addiction, neurology and psychiatry met to examine the artist's mental state in light of a new document that showed that Vincent had self-harmed in a spectacularly violent fashion. Yet, despite days of discussions, the panel concluded that it is impossible to tell exactly what Van Gogh suffered from. The mystery endures.



A young Vincent Van Gogh, aged 19

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WHAT IF...

...BOUDICCA HAD DEFEATED THE ROMANS?

The warrior queen came within one victory of ending Roman rule in Britain less than 20 years after it began. **Jonny Wilkes** talks to **Miles Russell** about what that victory might have meant for Britain and for Rome

There came a moment when Iceni queen Boudicca had good reason to believe her uprising would end in victory over the Romans. Beginning with her warriors and an alliance with a rival tribe, the Trinovantes, her horde of bloodthirsty Britons had kept growing as more joined her march through southern England in AD 60 from one success to the next. As well as ambushing and obliterating the Roman 9th Legion, she had burned Camulodunum (Colchester), Londinium (London) and Verulamium (St Albans) to the ground.

"The three newly built Roman towns were all undefended," says Miles Russell, historian, author and Senior Lecturer of archaeology at Bournemouth University. "Camulodunum, which housed ex Roman soldiers and was the site of a temple dedicated to Emperor Claudius, was the main focus of Boudicca's anger." Londinium, meanwhile, was a wealthy centre of trade and Verulamium had been built for the pro-Roman Catuvellauni tribe, described by Russell as "all traitors and quislings in the eyes of Boudicca's people".

Now the warrior queen faced her greatest challenge. The Governor of Britain, Gaius Suetonius Paulinius, had raced back from putting down a druid rebellion in Wales at the head of 10,000 battle-hardened soldiers. They may have been far more disciplined and better armed than Boudicca's ragtag army, but they were heavily outnumbered – as much as four to one, according to Russell. When the two sides met at a place called Watling Street, Boudicca had to avoid playing into Suetonius's hands. "Suetonius was, as far as Rome was concerned, the right man in the right place; an experienced soldier and a no-nonsense individual who did not shrink from making tough decisions," says Russell.

Watling Street was where Boudicca's army was broken, but could it have played out differently? Boudicca would have had to ensure that Suetonius did not choose the battleground, where the Romans could position themselves at a bottleneck so that her larger numbers counted for nothing. Then it could too easily have turned into a massacre of the disorganised and unarmoured Britons.

BREAKING THE BOTTLENECK

We might imagine Boudicca's warriors rushing across a wide field before the Roman javelins, or *pila*, caused too much damage and swarmed the shield wall, breaking it apart by the ferocity of the charge. With Suetonius in retreat and his remaining soldiers scattering, Boudicca would have claimed a remarkable victory over the Romans.

That would not mean she had rid herself of all her enemies, though. The people of Britain were in no way united, with deep-seated tensions permeating between the tribes. "Not all Britons were on Boudicca's side – far from it. Many had thrown their lot in with the Roman government, seeing no benefit in siding with the anarchy and lawlessness of the rebels," Russell asserts.

Boudicca would have had to contend with them, and also keep her own Iceni and ally tribes under some control, as many warriors simply wanted to loot and kill. "It is likely that the victorious Britons would have vented their anger upon the tribes allied to Rome, such as the Atrebates and Regni, before eventually turning on each other," says Russell. "Boudicca would have found it difficult to call a halt to the slaughter."

There would not have been a Roman force left that was strong enough to retaliate, either, other than handfuls of soldiers in the west and north. "The Romans would have almost certainly been kicked out of Britain," is Russell's conclusion. "Emperor Nero could have done little more than order a full withdrawal of all forces from Britain, allowing him to regroup and

DID YOU KNOW?

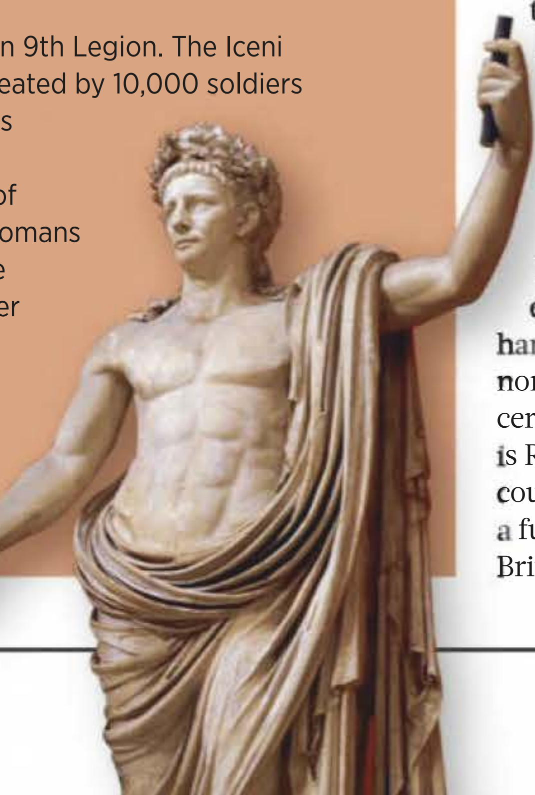
SICK TO DEATH(S)

While Boudicca escaped the real massacre at Watling Street, the histories differ on her ultimate fate. Tacitus claims she poisoned herself to avoid capture and Cassius Dio makes out that she evaded the Romans long enough to die of illness.

IN CONTEXT

Emperor Claudius (*pictured*) launched the conquest of Britain in AD 43. The Roman tactic of subduing each individual tribe, if not by military force, was by forcing an agreement whereby they nominally maintained their independence while allying with the conquerors. The Iceni tribe, in modern-day East Anglia, became one of these 'client kingdoms', but when their king Prasutagus died, the Romans refused to recognise the rule of his widow, Boudicca, and chose to rule the Iceni directly.

In AD 60, Boudicca led a number of tribes in an uprising – destroying three cities and ambushing the Roman 9th Legion. The Iceni queen was finally defeated by 10,000 soldiers under Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, Governor of Britain, at the Battle of Watling Street. The Romans made sure to improve defences so they never faced such a threat in Britain for the next 350 years. Boudicca may have poisoned herself to avoid capture.



consider whether to re invade or plan punitive reprisals."

The chances of a second invasion would have been small given the high cost, so the prestige of Rome would have been seriously tarnished. Russell goes even further when it comes to Nero's reputation, which was already shaky due to his scandalous behaviour and lifestyle, and says the damage "would have been irreparable". Nero's reign may have been cut even shorter by intensified charges of corruption, extravagance and tyranny.

BRITAIN MAKES AN EXIT

Rome's troubles with Britain, which had been within the trade orbit of the empire for around a century, would not be over even after they left, Russell claims. "It's likely that, as in Germany after Rome's army left in AD 9 following a massacre, the peoples of Britain would have become a constant problem at the edge of the empire, sending raiding parties, occasionally trading and sometimes even asking for help to resolve internal disputes.

"Rome may have sent troops across the Channel from time to time to quell the irritant, but it's unlikely they would have launched another full scale invasion," Russell adds. "Eventually, British tribes may well have migrated into the collapsing Roman Empire, just as the various Germanic tribes did throughout the fifth century."

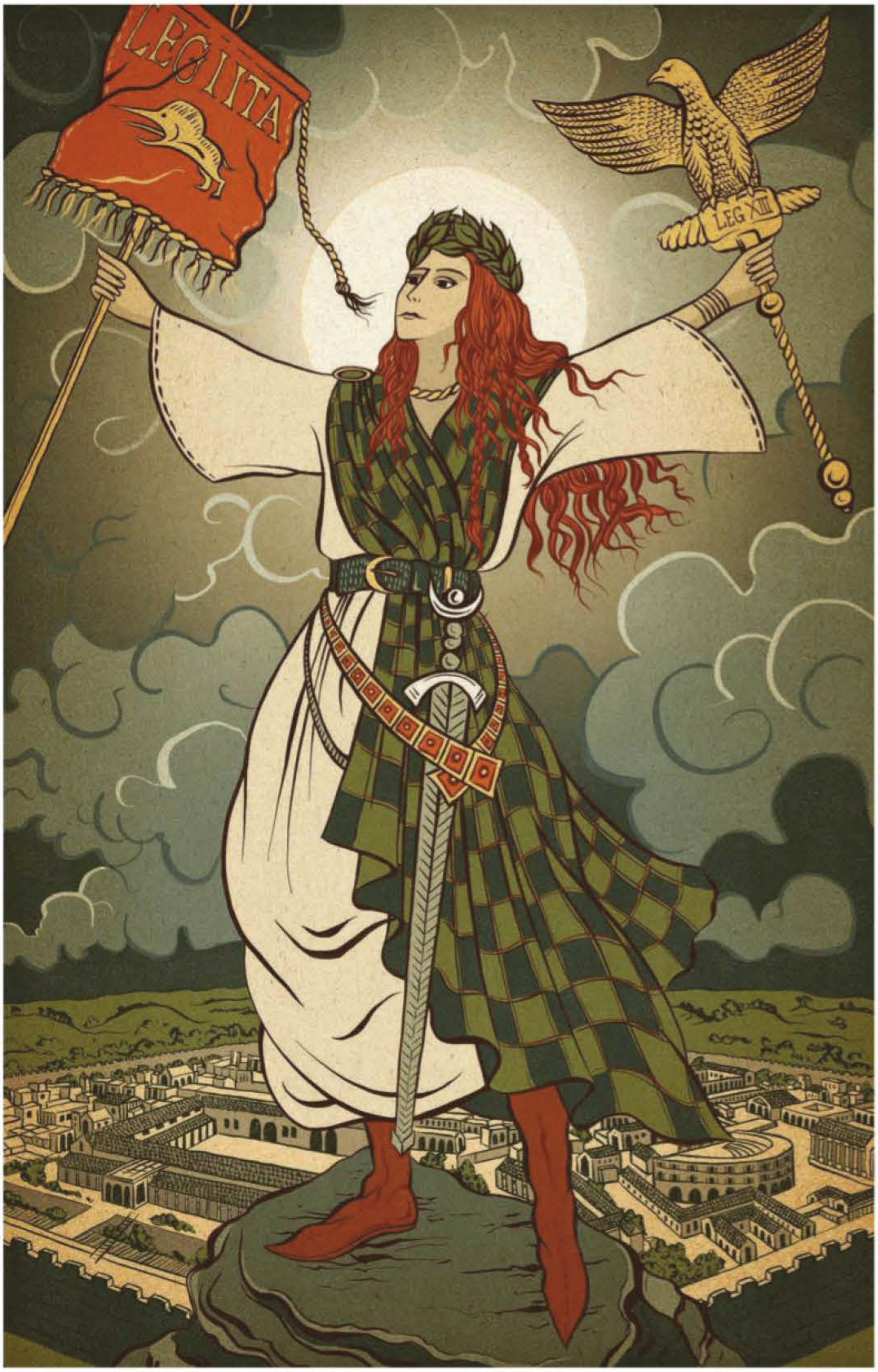
As for Boudicca, how would her legacy have survived over the centuries? The only sources relating to the uprising are written by two Roman historians Tacitus and Cassius Dio so it's not unreasonable to assume she may have been left out of the histories altogether out of shame that a barbarian a woman at that had defeated the might of Rome. Russell, however, feels differently after all, Tacitus and Dio had made Suetonius the hero of their narratives as a direct contrast to the ineffective Nero.

"Had Boudicca won, her story would may have become *more* famous," says Russell, "as the woman who successfully defied Rome and helped end the tyrant Nero's reign. Her tale would have taken on a more moralistic slant in the Roman histories." ⊙

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 Boudicca is explored on an episode of the BBC Radio 4 podcast *You're Dead to Me.*
bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07n8nrg

NEXT MONTH
What if… Alexander the Great had lived longer?



"NOT ALL BRITONS WERE ON BOUDICCA'S SIDE – FAR FROM IT. MANY HAD THROWN THEIR LOT IN WITH THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT"

Miles Russell, historian and archaeologist

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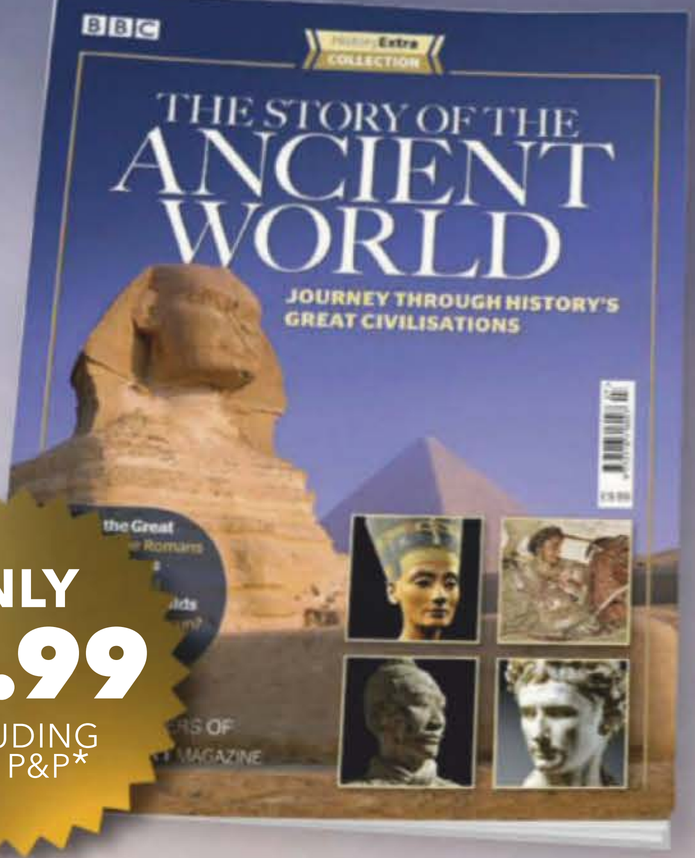
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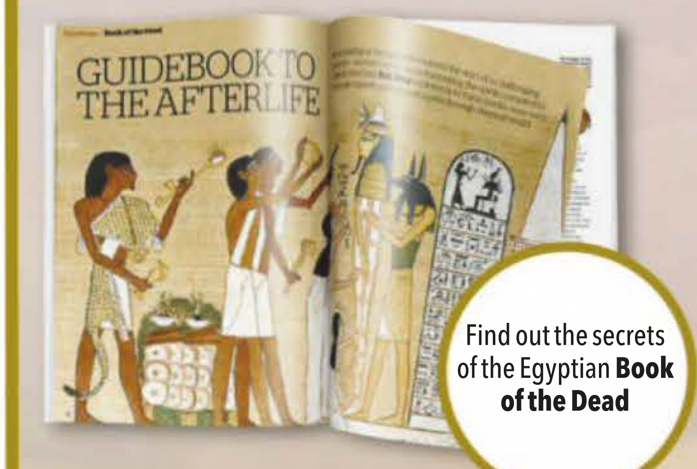
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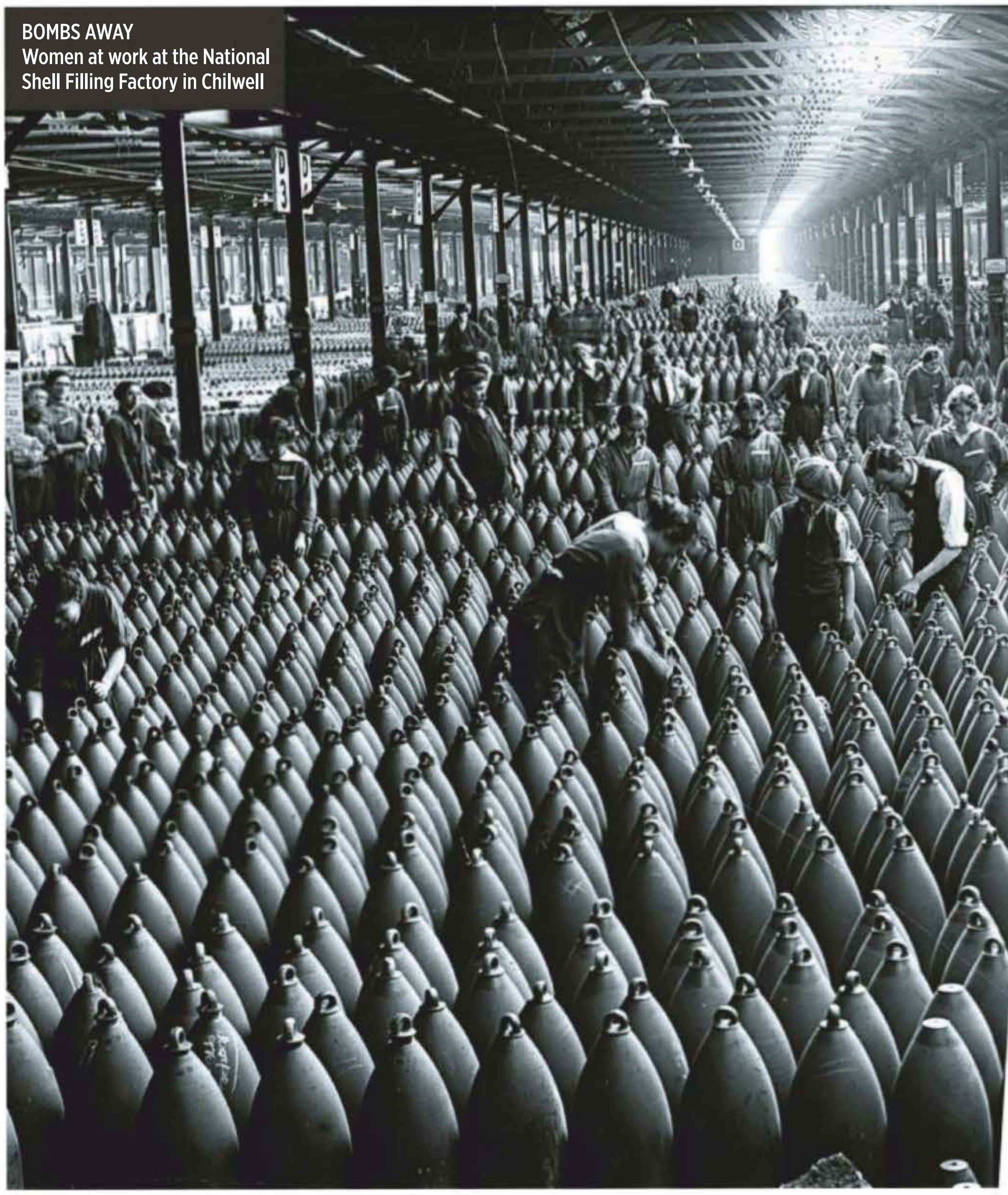
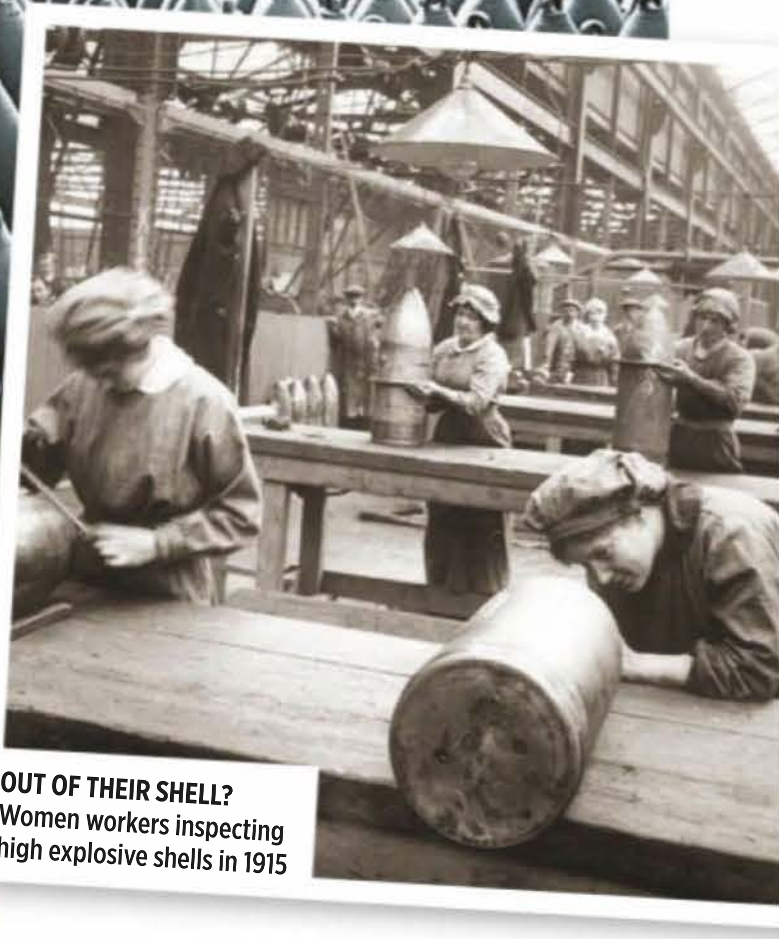


BOMBS AWAY
Women at work at the National Shell Filling Factory in Chilwell



OUT OF THEIR SHELL?
Women workers inspecting high explosive shells in 1915

How dangerous was it being a munitionette?

SHORT ANSWER Very. They – mostly women– worked with explosives and chemicals that damaged their insides and turned their skin yellow…

LONG ANSWER With the men off fighting and a shortage of shells, women entered the workforce during World War I. For the approximately one million women in the munitions factories by 1918, making 80 per cent of the ammunition used by the British army, this meant dirty and dangerous work, long hours, unequal pay and hostile attitudes about women taking typically men's jobs. To make TNT and cordite, munitionettes worked with hazardous chemicals with little protection. This could result in not only their skin turning yellow – earning them the nickname 'canary girls' – but the skin of their children, albeit temporarily. Worse still, the chemicals caused nausea, headaches, vomiting and breathing difficulties, while also attacking the immune system, making workers vulnerable to anaemia or organ damage.

Of course, making shells was inherently risky. Deadly explosions occurred at several factories, the worst being at Barnbow in Leeds, Silvertown in Essex and the National Shell Filling Factory in Chilwell, Nottinghamshire, in 1918, the latter killing 134 munitions workers.

For many women, though, the risks were deemed worthwhile, as the work was performed in the name of patriotic duty. Their efforts also helped to advance of women's rights their war work helped see some women finally given the vote in 1918.

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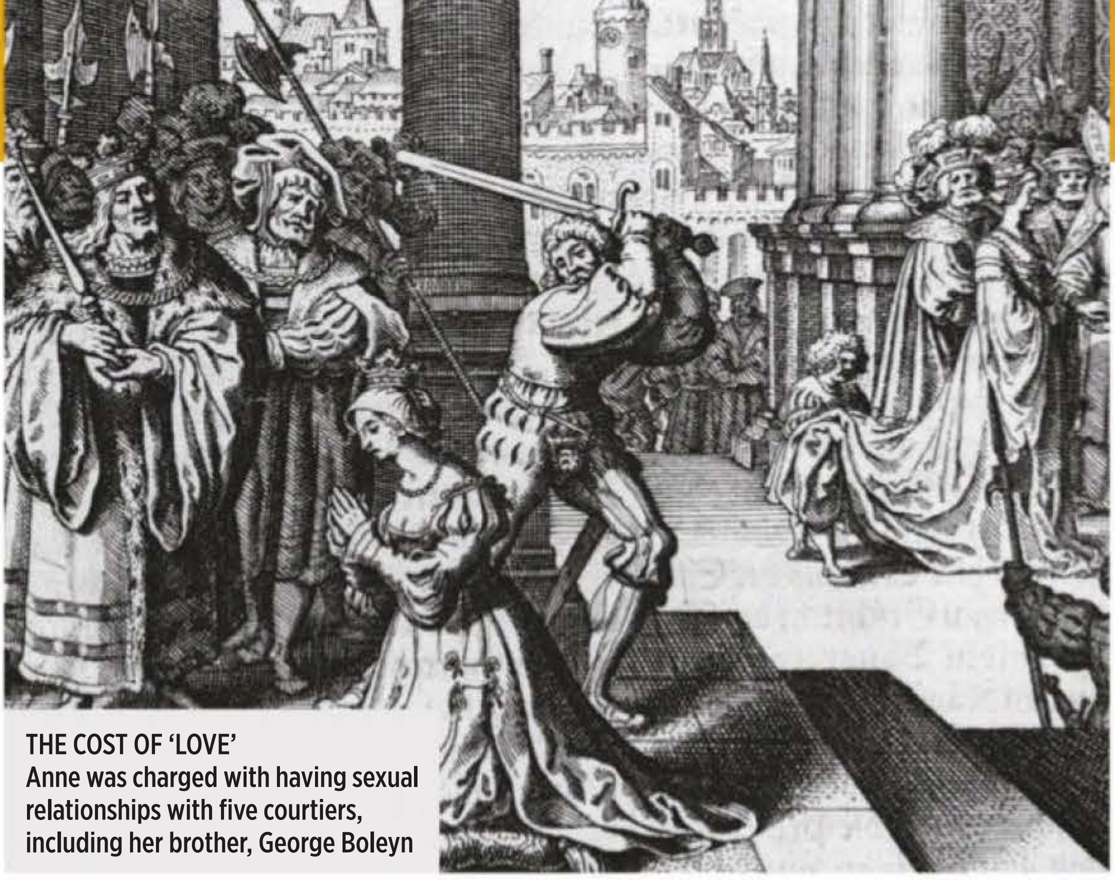

THE COST OF 'LOVE'
Anne was charged with having sexual relationships with five courtiers, including her brother, George Boleyn

Why was Anne Boleyn not executed with an axe?

SHORT ANSWER Henry VIII seemingly wished to spare his second wife the pain of a more brutal death...

LONG ANSWER Just three years after marrying her, Henry VIII had seemingly tired of Anne Boleyn who had failed to give him a son. Trumped up charges of adultery, incest and treason were enough to see her executed on 19 May 1536, so that Henry could be betrothed to Jane Seymour the next day.

Still, perhaps Henry had some flickering embers of affection for Anne, as he displayed a small mercy right at the end. Instead of the axe, a brutal tool that often resulted in botched executions, he called for an expert executioner the Hangman of Calais to be brought from France where swords were the blade of choice. It may have been a gesture towards the years that Anne spent in France during her youth, too. It seems that Anne tried to find comfort in Henry's decision, being quoted as saying: "I have heard say the executioner was very good and I have a little neck."

Why do astronauts pee on a bus before lift-off?

SHORT ANSWER They haven't all been caught short – they're giving a liquid salute to the first human in space...

LONG ANSWER In 2019, news broke that astronauts taking off from a Kazakh base may not be able to continue the long tradition of urinating on the right rear tyre of the bus transporting them to the launchpad as their new spacesuits don't come with a handy zip. It's a tradition that goes back to the beginnings of spaceflight in 1961, when Soviet pilot Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. Nerves may have got the better of him that day, 12 April, as he had to ask the driver to pull over so he could relieve himself.

Since then, astronauts taking off from the same base, Baikonur in Kazakhstan, boldly go where Gagarin went before to honour his historic flight. At least the men do some female astronauts carry a little cup of wee for them to splash on the tyre.

WHERE NO (HU)MAN HAS GONE BEFORE
Gagarin's Vostok 1 mission completed an orbit of Earth before returning him to terra firma

2

The number of US Senators, out of 100, who opposed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1964, which led to escalation of the Vietnam War.

'TIS BUT A SCRATCH
The Greek legend was laid low by a bolt from the blue

Who fired the arrow that killed Achilles?

SHORT ANSWER The Trojan prince Paris started a war and ended the life of Greece's greatest warrior...

LONG ANSWER Achilles could rush into battle supremely confident of avoiding a career-ending injury, and no wonder. When he was a baby, his mother is said to have dipped him into the underworld's River Styx to gift him with invulnerability. So long as he didn't get hit in his one and only weak spot – his heel, the bit she held to do the dunking – he'd be free from harm.

Unluckily for Achilles (or perhaps by divine intervention) that was exactly where an arrow struck him during the decade-long Trojan War. It had been shot by Paris, the prince of Troy who began the whole trouble by running off with Helen, and it may have been guided on its route by the god Apollo.

The arrow was possibly poisoned too; the Greek myths are not consistent. Achilles' heel or death aren't even mentioned in *The Iliad* while some depictions show him with an arrow in his chest.

Why do the Queen's Guard wear bearskins?

SHORT ANSWER Their towering furry headgear is a lasting trophy from Waterloo...

LONG ANSWER Ask most people what they know of the Queen's Guard, who watch over royal residences like Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London, and you'll probably hear the same things. They are unmoving when at their post, quite a sight when changing guard, and wear distinctive headgear. Their bearskins and yes, they are still made of real bear fur stand almost 46cm tall and can weigh as much as 0.7kg.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, troops from various European armies wore bearskin hats as it made them look taller and, the hope was, more intimidating. While they fell out of widespread use, they became part of a particularly prestigious uniform: those worn by Napoleon's elite soldiers, the Imperial Guard.

The bearskins made quite a trophy for the men of the British 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, who defeated the Imperial Guard at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, crushing Napoleon's last ditch hope of victory. They took the hats from fallen French soldiers and were allowed to wear them as part of their own uniform. Today the bearskins are worn by the same regiment, now the Grenadier Guards, and the other four regiments of the Queen's Guard.

DID YOU KNOW?

DOGS OF WAR

George Washington made the most of a ceasefire at the Battle of Germantown on 4 October 1777, during the American Revolutionary War, to return a lost terrier to its owner – British commander, Sir William Howe.

NAMED AND SHAMED

Those caught cheating at the Ancient Olympics in Greece faced fines, flogging and an extreme gesture of public shaming. Statues of Zeus would be built near the stadium – at the cheaters' expense – that named them as such.

THE RHYTHM METHOD

In Victorian times, one piece of advice given to women to help them avoid getting pregnant was to get out of bed after intercourse and jump or dance around the room.

CHOC, HORROR

The English were somewhat slower than their rivals when it came to learning the value of chocolate. In 1579, English pirates boarded a Spanish ship from the New World and burned the cargo, believing the cacao beans to be sheep droppings.

Who invented chess?

SHORT ANSWER Hang on mate, I'd have to check. With no single inventor, chess evolved from an Indian game played 1,500 years ago...

LONG ANSWER The pieces on a chess board may have a somewhat medieval feel kings, queens, knights and castles but the origins of the game are much older. They are still a matter of debate, with games being found across Asia, the Middle East and Europe that could be precursors to chess, and there is no hope of identifying a lone inventor. The best move, so far, is to look to a popular pastime in India in the 6th and 7th centuries: 'chaturanga' tested battle strategies, named for a formation of four military divisions (infantry, cavalry, chariots, elephantry), and looks a lot like chess, although it did use dice. Versions of the game spread to Persia, where the checkmate principle was added, and then to Europe.

Why was Larry so happy?

SHORT ANSWER A prize-winning pugilist may be the Larry in question, and he had lots of reasons to be happy...

LONG ANSWER Of all the happy Larrys and Lawrences in history, one popular contender for this title was an Australian boxer. The phrase originates from Australia and New Zealand in the late 19th century, just as Larry Foley was fighting. Foley never lost in his career and pocketed big prizes, which would be enough to make anyone happy. He became the national champion by defeating Abe Hicken, and advanced the sport by helping introduce gloves and Queensberry rules, as well as training the next generation of champs.

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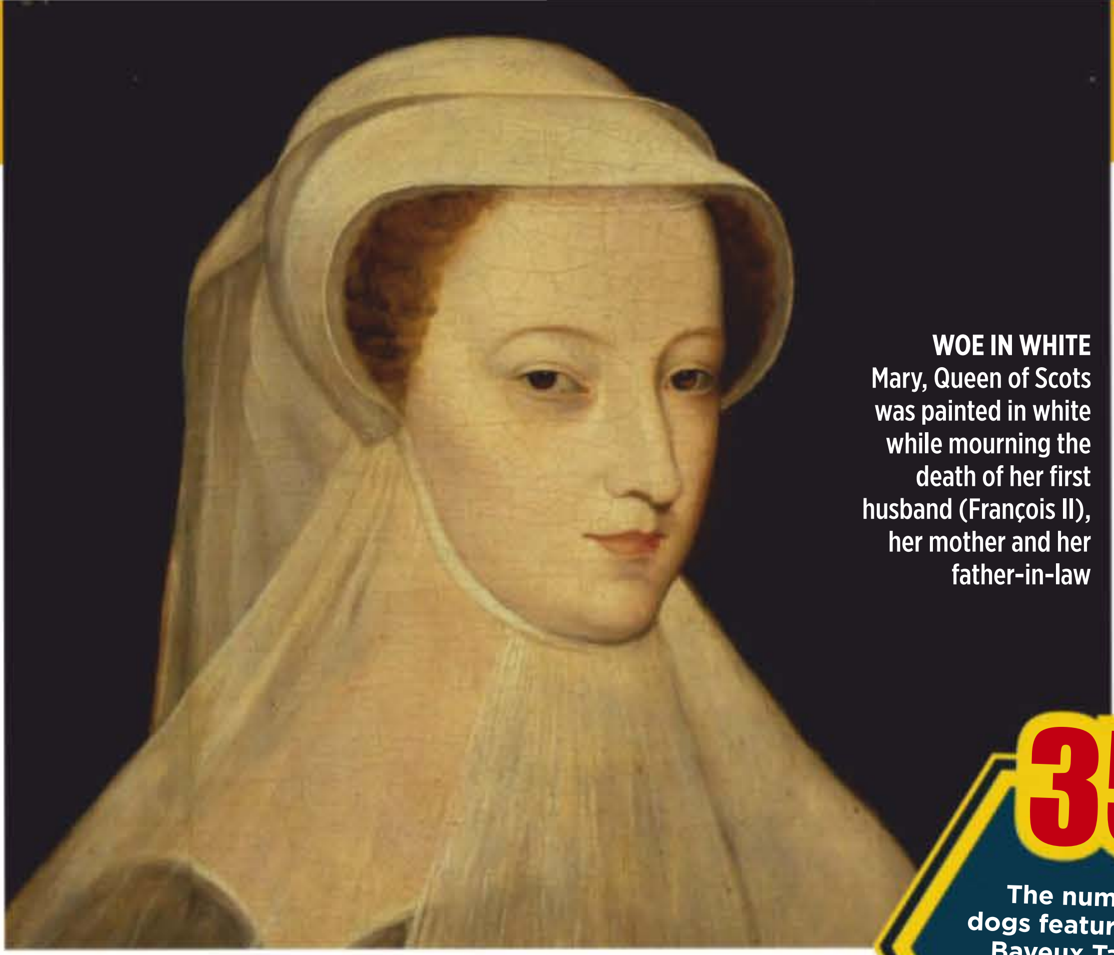


WOE IN WHITE
Mary, Queen of Scots was painted in white while mourning the death of her first husband (François II), her mother and her father-in-law

Has black always been the colour of mourning?

SHORT ANSWER Black is appropriately sombre, but white has been, and still is, the colour of choice for some...

LONG ANSWER It is yet another one of the things the Romans did for us. When in mourning they would exchange their usual plain white toga for a dark garment named toga pulla. Since then, there have been long periods when black was the norm notably in the Victorian era, when mourning took on elaborate sets of rules and rituals but it wasn't, and still isn't, the go to colour everywhere. The Ancient Egyptians, for example, saw death as a good opportunity to use as much gold as possible.

White has been another popular choice, worn in medieval Europe by queens and, in 1393, the entire funeral procession of Leo V, King of Armenia. Representing purity, new life and innocence, white is also worn by mourning Buddhists and Hindus to this day. And even Victoria, who famously mourned Prince Albert for 40 years, understood its symbolism as she requested white at her own funeral.

35

The number of dogs featured in the Bayeux Tapestry. There are also 190 horses, 626 humans and 41 ships (some dispute this)

Who unearthed the Rosetta Stone?

SHORT ANSWER An officer of Napoleon's army made the discovery that helped us decipher Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs

LONG ANSWER Much is made, rightly, of the work of Thomas Young and Jean-François Champollion in deciphering the Rosetta Stone, but a name less well known is of the first man to lay eyes on it in around two millennia. An officer in the French army named Pierre-François Bouchard was overseeing work on fortifications in the Egyptian town of Rosetta (now Rashid) in 1799, the year after Napoleon had invaded. His men found the large block of black granite covered in three scripts after it had been built into a wall. Scholars accompanying the army saw its significance, but they couldn't study it for long as Napoleon was defeated and the stone handed over to the British.

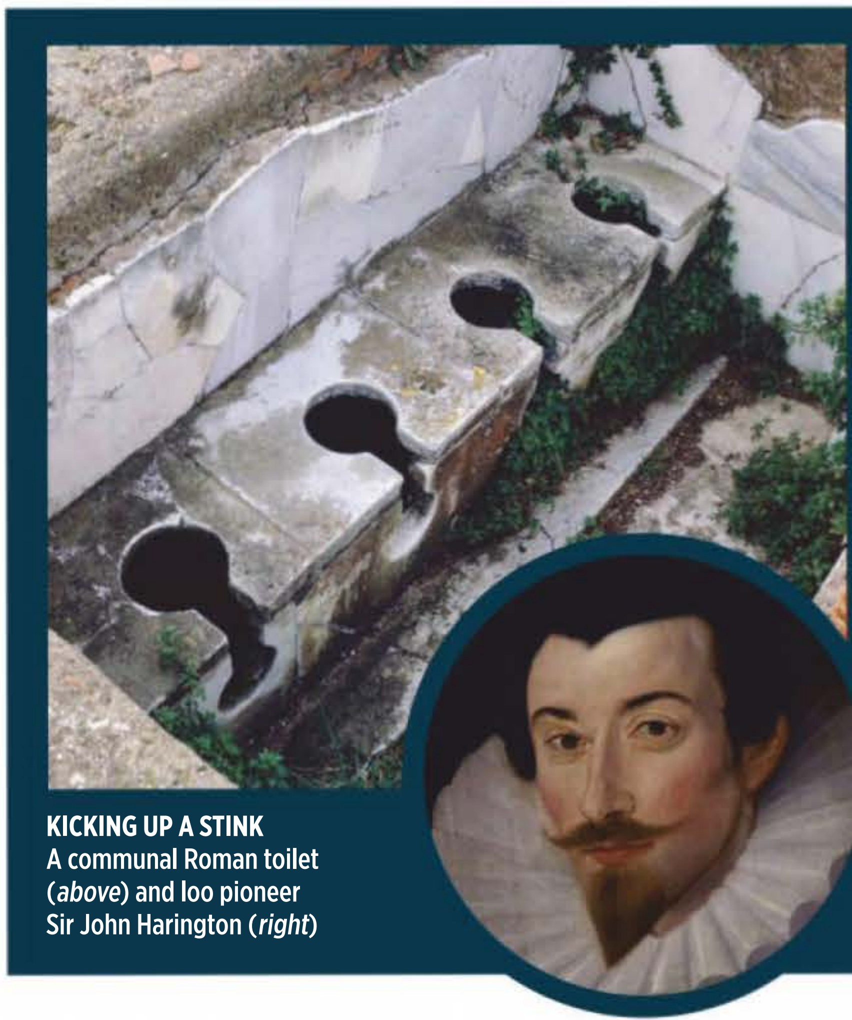
ANCIENT 'DICTIONARY'
The stone bears parallel text in Egyptian hieroglyphs, Demotic script and Ancient Greek

When was the first flushing toilet?

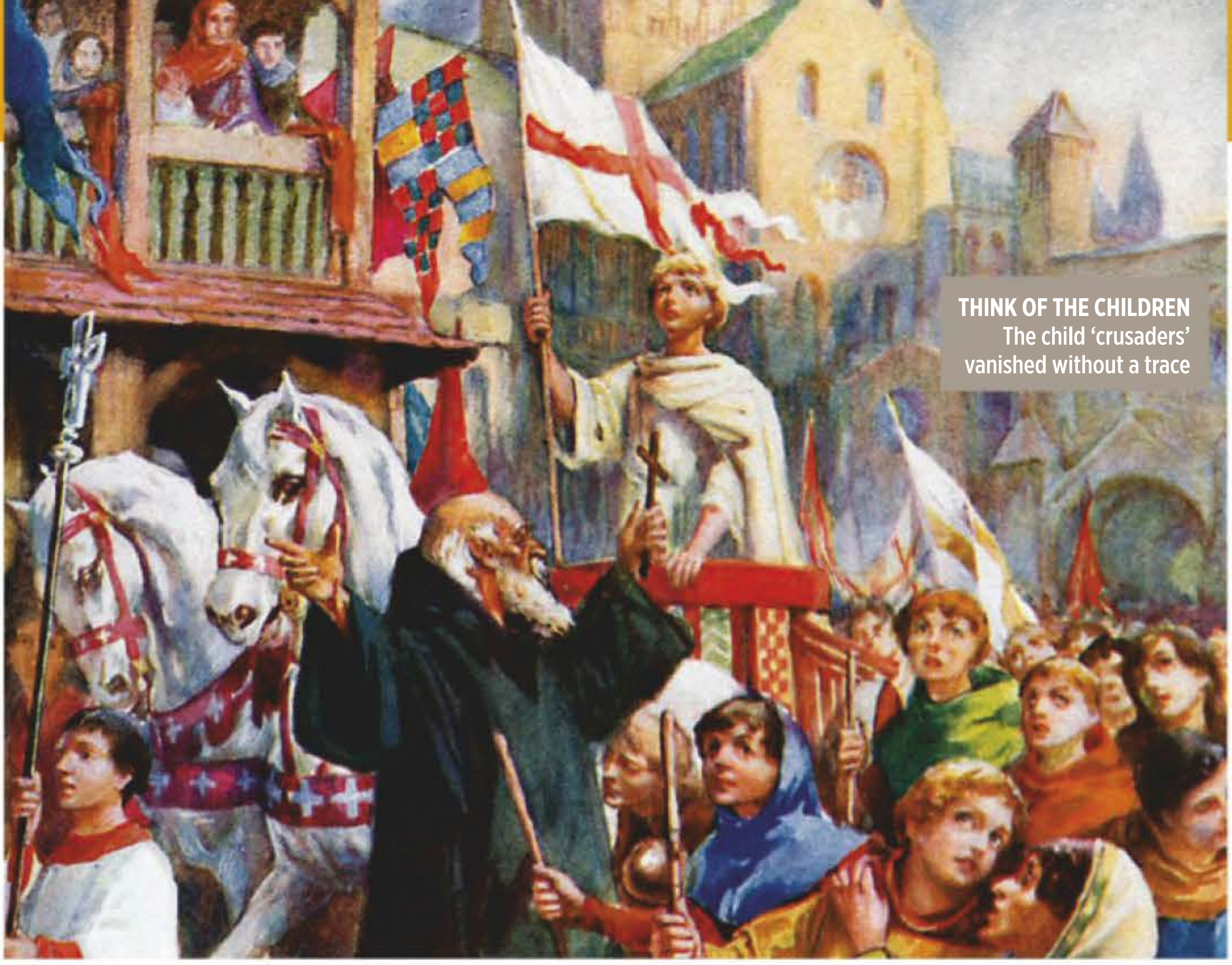
SHORT ANSWER Although ancient civilisations used water to wash waste away, the modern toilet emerged in the 16th century...

LONG ANSWER It should come as no surprise that, even though sanitation hasn't always been well understood, there have been people throughout history keen to get their bodily waste away from them quickly. Ancient examples of using water to wash it away go back as far as 5,000 years, to the Indus Valley civilisation of South Asia, but the Minoan civilisation, China and Rome were other potty pioneers. And while Europe languished in the so called Dark (and stinky) Ages, the Muslim world was awash with water-based toilets.

The modern idea of the flushing toilet, however, is often credited to Sir John Harington, a writer, courtier and godson to Elizabeth I. In 1596, he unveiled his 'water closet', which he christened Ajax. Essentially, his "privie in perfection" involved a bowl with a tank of water above that washed the waste into a large pit below. One was installed at Richmond Palace, but the fashion for such indoor plumbing didn't catch on the 19th century.



KICKING UP A STINK
A communal Roman toilet (*above*) and loo pioneer Sir John Harington (*right*)



THINK OF THE CHILDREN The child 'crusaders' vanished without a trace

What was the Children's Crusade?

SHORT ANSWER A doomed youth movement in 1212 to capture Jerusalem – perhaps. Sources are sketchy at best...

LONG ANSWER In the early 13th century, frustration festered at the failures of the Crusades to capture and hold Jerusalem, which led to a swell of religious fervour that saw thousands muster in the belief that they would do it themselves. They weren't knights, though. They were children.

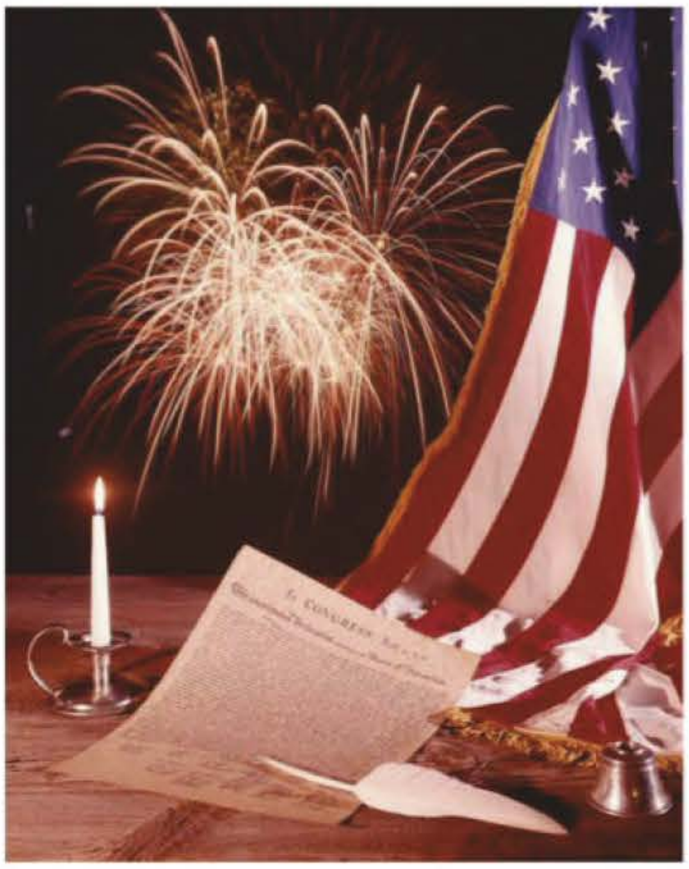
The youth movement began simultaneously in France, led by a shepherd named Stephen of Cloyes who claimed to have had visions and messages from Christ, and in Germany, headed by Nicholas of Cologne, in 1212. The so called Children's Crusade did not receive official sanction from the pope, but that didn't stop the Christian youngsters marching unarmed to the Mediterranean, where they hoped to find boats to the Holy Land or for the sea to part in true biblical fashion. Nothing went to plan, and the mini crusaders dispersed within months, taking jobs hundreds of miles from their homes, dying of hunger or being sold into slavery.

At least, that's how the story goes. Little is known for certain as the doomed movement is barely mentioned in any official accounts of the Crusades. There is a theory that they may not have been children at all, but peasants who were condescendingly referred to as such.

What was 'patriotic lockjaw'?

SHORT ANSWER Celebrating US independence in the early 1900s could see you contract a nasty disease...

LONG ANSWER The Fourth of July and fireworks go hand in hand in the US, but at the start of the 20th century showing a bit of national pride came with a certain health risk. With fireworks becoming cheaper and more accessible, people could set them off themselves, but this led to a rise every July of severe cases of tetanus (lockjaw being a common symptom) caused by shrapnel. It was also brought about by the practice of firing off guns at celebrations. A 1903 report by the American Medical Association recorded 406 fatal cases of patriotic lockjaw.

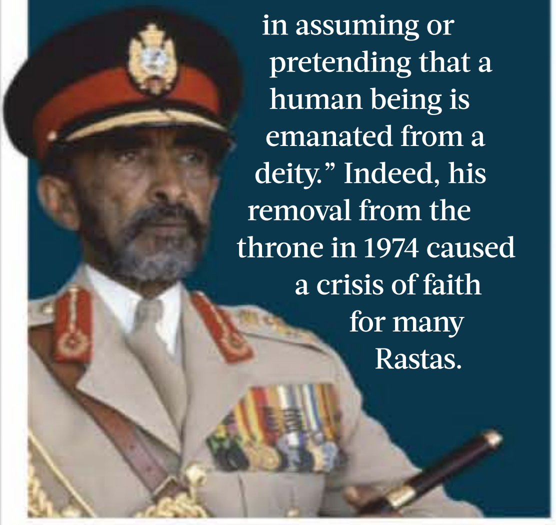


Why did Haile Selassie become a god to Rastas?

SHORT ANSWER In 1916, charismatic Jamaican activist Marcus Garvey made a claim that inspired a new religion...

LONG ANSWER "Look to Africa for the crowning of a black king. He shall be the redeemer," said black activist and nationalist, Marcus Garvey in c1920, and many of his fellow Jamaicans took this to heart. When Haile Selassie (*below*) became emperor of Ethiopia in 1930 – continuing a dynastic line going back 3,000 years – believers saw him as the fulfilment of Garvey's words. They formed a religion called Rastafarianism, after Selassie's birth name of Ras Tafari Makonnen, and claimed him to be the second coming of Christ, who would lead them to their homeland of Africa from which their ancestors had been stolen as slaves.

Selassie, a devout Christian, did not encourage such a view, saying: "I told them clearly that I am a man, a mortal... and that they should never make a mistake in assuming or pretending that a human being is emanated from a deity." Indeed, his removal from the throne in 1974 caused a crisis of faith for many Rastas.



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ALAMY X1, GETTY X6

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TV, FILM & RADIO

THE LATEST DOCUMENTARIES, BLOCKBUSTERS AND PERIOD DRAMAS

ONE TO WATCH

Kellogg's CORN FLAKES
Colman's Starch
ARDERN & SON
55 DERBYSHIRE LANE
SHEFFIELD

Sara Cox (*in pink*) and food historian Polly Russell (*in green*) help the Ardern family through corner shop life

Nipping out for some milk and history…

Back in Time for the Corner Shop / BBC Two & BBC iPlayer, available now

The idea of being able to pop around the corner to pick up a loaf of bread and a newspaper is something those of us who live in Britain's towns and cities largely take for granted. So much so that it's easy to forget just how much local stores have changed down the years. Reason enough in itself for the latest entry in the long-running and hugely popular *Back In Time* strand to send the Ardern family on a time-travelling retail adventure spanning a century.

Their mode of transport is a shop located in Meersbrook, a working-class suburb of Sheffield; their initial stop is 1897, the year the area was first developed as a community, at a time when the steel industry was booming. The late-Victorian era proves to be a time when all five members of the family have to muck in, especially as pre-packaged goods largely lie in the future. This is a time when customers sit and wait as the items they need are measured and served, and when the women in the family have to make jam, baked goods and even hair tonics to sell.

Not that it's all grinding work as the family meet Aramis the horse, who helps with deliveries, and, as the clock ticks forward to the 20th century, undertake an Edwardian-style workout thanks to an Olympian fitness instructor, Dame Kelly Holmes.

Subsequent episodes take the story of the corner shop through to the end of the 20th century. Contained within are tales of how brands such as Cadbury's and Heinz became familiar names, of how economic hard times between the wars meant shopkeepers had to judge whether customers could be trusted to take items on tick, and of how innovative new products such as the phone card helped shopkeepers stay in business in the age of the supermarket.

Sara Cox presents the six-part series, while food historian Polly Russell offers expert advice to the Ardern family.

The Ardern family gets stuck into corner shop life

BBC/WALL TO WALL MEDIA LTD/PAUL HUSBAND X2

Bob Hope crowns Miss World in 1970. The winner, Jennifer Hosten (Miss Grenada), was the first black woman to be crowned

Night of high drama

Miss World 1970: Beauty Queens & Bedlam

BBC Two, scheduled for mid-March

PRESS ASSOCIATION X1, SKY GERMANY/NIK KONIETZNY X1

On 20 November 1970, 58 women from around the world gathered at London's Royal Albert Hall in the hope of being crowned Miss World. The BBC televised an annual event that was then prestigious and mainstream enough to attract the comedian and Hollywood star Bob Hope as its co host.

As a new documentary recounts, things didn't go smoothly. That's because the pageant was interrupted by activists from the newly formed Women's Liberation Movement, who threw flour bombs and heckled the painfully sexist Hope a story also told in dramatic form in a new movie, *Misbehaviour*, in cinemas in March. Considering the protests occurred shortly after far left militant group the Angry Brigade had exploded a bomb under a BBC broadcast van (nobody was hurt), this was an occasion where everyone's nerves were on edge.

Beyond its place in the history of feminism, the competition has also come to be seen as symbolically important in the wider civil rights struggle because it was the first time it was won by a black woman, Jennifer Hosten, Miss Grenada.

Adding to the sense of historical currents mingling, one of the runners up was black South African Pearl Jansen, Miss Africa South. (Miss South Africa, Jillian Jessup, also competed, having won a title open only to white women.)

Through archive footage and interviews with those who were there contestants such as Hosten, Jessup and Marjorie Johansson, Miss Sweden; Women's Liberation Movement activists Sue Finch, Sarah Wilson and Jo Robinson; and co host Michael Aspel the documentary vividly conveys a sense of an extraordinary evening when a beauty pageant became politically charged.

Gugu Mbatha-Raw (*right*) and Keira Knightley (*far left*) star in *Misbehaviour*

What lies beneath

Das Boot / Sky Atlantic, April

Every bit as tense and claustrophobic as the 1981 movie, *Das Boot* the TV series gripped audiences around the world. It's no surprise then to find the show returning for a second season.

The story picks up in December 1942 as submarine ace Johannes von Reinhartz (Clemens Schick) is given a secret mission to transport three saboteurs to the US eastern seaboard on board U 822. But Reinhartz's loyalty is being scrutinised and U 612, under CO Ulrich Wrangel (Stefan Konarske), is sent in pursuit.

Meantime, in a show that works by weaving together different narratives, U 612's former commander Klaus Hoffmann (Rick Okon) finds a haven in New York. In occupied La Rochelle, Simone (Vicky Krieps) and her roommate, Margot (Fleur Geffrier), work to protect a Jewish family.

Auschwitz survivors (*l-r*) Erika Jacoby, Eva Beckmann and Renée Firestone (*pictured with director Jon Kean*) relive their post-liberation experiences in *After Auschwitz*

Seaside histories

Villages by the Sea / BBC One & iPlayer, available now

Today, the villages on England's coast are often sleepy places, perfect for relaxation and escaping the hustle-bustle. It wasn't always thus, says archaeologist Ben Robinson. In the past, many of these same settlements were on the front line of major events.

Take Clovelly in North Devon, famed for its steep main street, its cobbles, for banning cars and for its spectacular views out over the Atlantic. Rather paradoxically from a contemporary perspective, it's retained its character, says Robinson, in part because it was at the forefront of the Victorian tourism revolution.

Other shows reveal different histories. Windswept Sunderland Point, on the Lancashire coast, accessible only via a road that's covered at high tide, is now a haven for wildlife. Yet, in the 18th century this was a busy port, part of the slavery triangle.

Holy Island in Northumberland is similarly cut off from the mainland at points in the day. It's a location associated with the spread of Christianity to England, the place where the famous illuminated manuscript known as the Lindisfarne Gospels was likely created in the early eighth century. However, this was a precarious location, close to Scandinavia and the site of a notorious Viking raid in AD 793.

The other two shows in the series focus on Robin Hood's Bay on the Yorkshire coast, once a centre for smuggling; and Walberswick, Suffolk, a major trading port for hundreds of years.

Archaeologist Ben Robinson shares the secrets of seaside villages

Stories of survival

After Auschwitz / PBS America, Thursday 16 April

On 27 January 1945, the Red Army reached the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, Poland. It is a site that has become forever associated with the most horrific and depraved excesses of the Holocaust, a place where more than a million people were murdered.

But a few did survive to bear witness and, 75 years later, this one off documentary traces the experiences of six women survivors in the aftermath of liberation and which, in particular, explores how difficult it is to begin again when the 'home' you're trying to reach has been destroyed or has changed forever. Holocaust survivors, we learn, were often unwelcome and sometimes even murdered.

This makes for a documentary of tremendous and harrowing power, often conveyed by small but haunting details, such as when Erika Jacoby (*pictured far left*), who had been deported to Auschwitz after the Nazis occupied Hungary in March 1944, recalls leaving a train station in search of food to find herself confronted with a ruined urban landscape.

"[I saw] two old people killing the lice in each other's hair," she remembers. "I felt ashamed looking at them because they had no humanity [left]."

Canny operator

How Iran Outwitted the West / BBC Radio 4, Tuesday 14 April

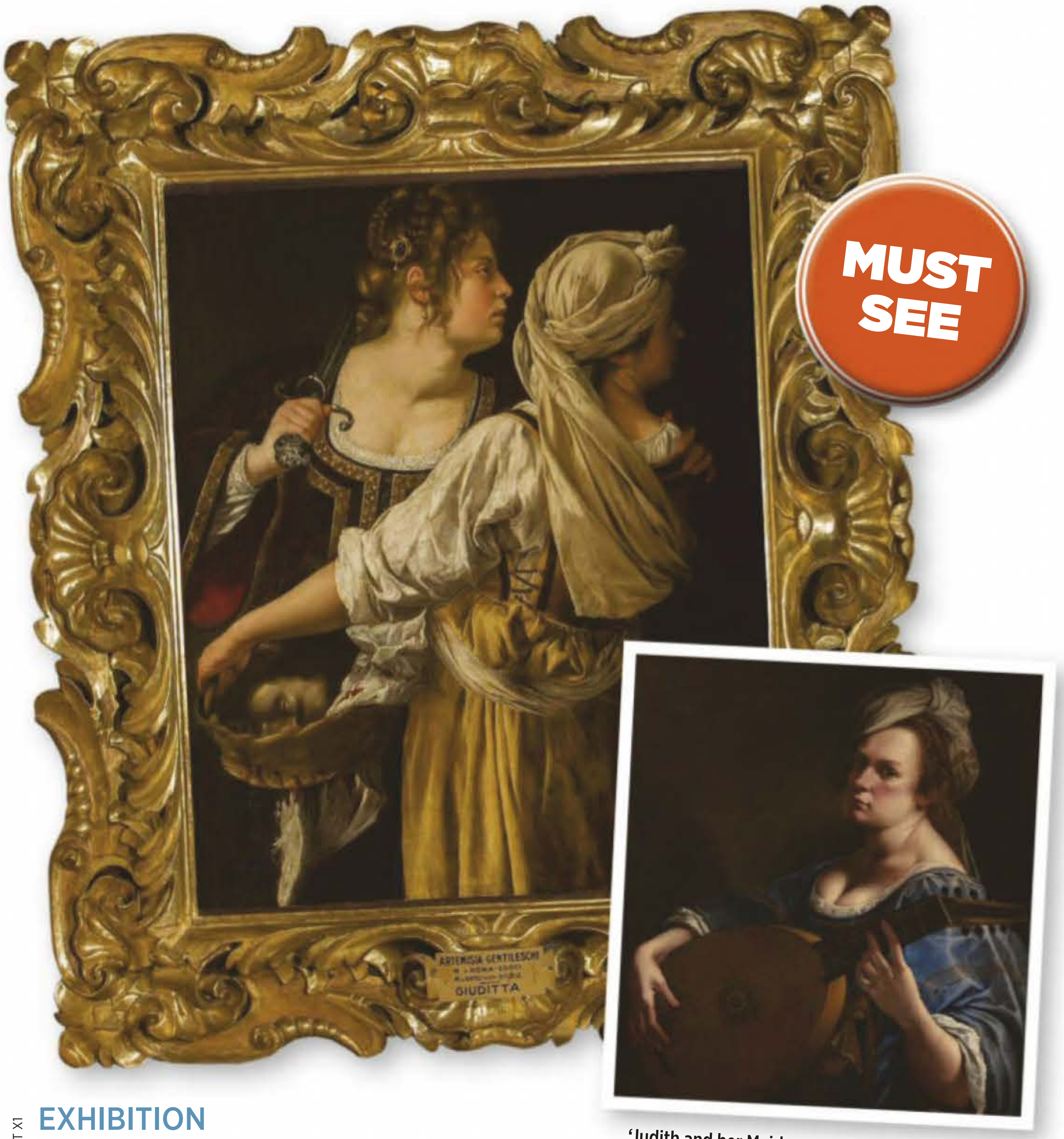
When the United States killed Iranian military leader Qasem Soleimani in January 2020, in a drone strike near Baghdad International Airport, it was widely thought there would be violent retaliations. Instead, Iran used the assassination to build support for its efforts to get US troops out of Iraq.

Soleimani would perhaps have approved, considering his leading role in building Iranian power in its own backyard in the years after the end of the Iran Iraq War in 1988. Owen Bennett Jones looks back over these years, and in particular at the complex interplay between Baghdad, Tehran and Washington.

BBC X1, GARY LEONARD X1

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

WHAT TO SEE AND WHERE TO VISIT IN THE WIDER WORLD OF HISTORY



'Judith and her Maidservant' and 'Self Portrait as a Lute Player', both painted c1615-18

© GABINETTO FOTOGRAFICO DELLE GALLERIE DEGLI UFFIZI X1, © WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART X1

EXHIBITION

Artemisia

PAID ENTRY The National Gallery, London, 4 April – 26 July, *nationalgallery.org.uk/exhibitions/artemisia*

Artemisia Gentileschi was a woman who broke the mould as the 17th century's most celebrated female artist. This first major UK exhibition of the Italian master will feature some of her finest paintings, self portraits and recently discovered personal letters.

Now hailed as one of the most gifted and expressive artists of the time inspired by the likes of Caravaggio the tragic and brutal events of her personal life have often overshadowed how her work has been viewed. At the age of 17, Artemisia was raped by prominent artist, Agostino Tassi, and then expected to marry her attacker in order to save her from disgrace. When Tassi did not fulfil his promise to marry her, Artemisia and her father brought him to trial for her rape; during her questioning, Artemisia's fingers were crushed to ensure she was telling the truth. Tassi was found guilty but his banishment from Rome was never carried out.

Later, after spending time in Florence where she became the first woman to be accepted into the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno (the Academy of the Arts of Drawing) Artemisia returned to Rome a great success. She was awash with commissions from cardinals and princes. But unlike many other artists of the day, Artemisia achieved success without a wealthy patron or employment from a royal court.

One of star pieces on show in the exhibition is a self portrait as St Catherine of Alexandria, a martyr who was tortured for her Christian beliefs. A great storyteller, much of Artemisia's work focuses on female heroines and characters from the Bible. Other highlights include a depiction of Cleopatra and the bloody 'Judith beheading Holofernes'.

FESTIVAL

Medieval Canterbury weekend

PAID ENTRY Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent, 3–5 April, *bit.ly/2HS2UDd*

Returning for its fifth year, Canterbury Christ Church University is hosting its Medieval weekend. The world-famous cathedral city of Canterbury, Kent, will play host to a wealth of talks from esteemed historians and scholars on topics ranging from the 1066 Battle of Hastings through to the symbolism of the medieval dragon. Speakers include David Starkey, who will be exploring the life of Henry VI and the early Tudors; Dan Jones, who will be delving into the characters who made up the armies during the Crusades; and Katherine Lewis, who will be uncovering the story of English queen consort Catherine of Valois – wife of Henry V. Each talk requires an individual ticket.

EXHIBITION

Florence Nightingale Comes Home

FREE ENTRY **Weston Gallery, University of Nottingham, 24 April – 23 August (closed on Mondays), *bit.ly/2TdeHkL***

Before the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale was just an ordinary woman, but by the time she returned to England she had become a celebrity nurse. To coincide with the bicentenary of her birth, the University of Nottingham has created an exhibition to explore Nightingale's upbringing, her motivations for going to war, and how her family home in Derbyshire was visited by adoring fans after her wartime exploits – despite her rejecting fame and committing to improving healthcare.

18+

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English Heritage sites have been visited by dragons – now it's time for an egg-citing quest

DRAGON TREASURE
Solve the clues and follow the trail to find all the eggs left by the dragons. A tasty prize waits at the end of the quest. Dressing up is encouraged!

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

English Heritage Easter Adventure Quest

PAID ENTRY Select English Heritage sites across the country, 4 – 19 April, *english-heritage.org.uk/easter*

English Heritage sites across the country have been littered with dragon eggs. Those brave enough to find them may receive a great reward of a certificate and some chocolatey treats. Sites taking part in the perilous quest include Audley End House in Essex, Whitby Abbey in Yorkshire, Walmer Castle in Kent, and Old Sarum in Wiltshire. The Easter Adventure Quest is £1 extra on top of the standard admission.

EXHIBITION

The Declaration of Arbroath

FREE ENTRY National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, 27 March – 26 April, *nms.ac.uk*

To celebrate its 700th anniversary, one of Scotland's defining documents is going on display for the first time in 15 years. Dated 6 April 1320, the Declaration of Arbroath was written and sealed by the barons and earls of the Kingdom of Scotland to Pope John XXII, asking the pontiff, in Latin, to recognise their kingdom's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as their king.

The original letter has since been lost, but a beautiful, fragile medieval copy complete with 19 surviving seals will make a rare showing at the National Museum of Scotland.

EVENT AND EXHIBITION

Legio VIII Augusta weekend and Militaria exhibition

PAID ENTRY Weekend is 11–12 April at Roman Army Museum, Northumberland; exhibition until 31 October at nearby Vindolanda Fort *vindolanda.com*

From April, the Roman Army Museum will be exploring the lives of ordinary soldiers who would have been based along Hadrian's Wall. More than 40 objects are on loan from a private collector, including a legionary helmet found in Germany and a military diploma given to an archer stationed near Vindolanda.

On the weekend of 11 12 April, a visit to the exhibition can be combined with a stop at the Roman Fort at Vindolanda, seven miles away, where soldiers of the Eighth Legion re enactment group will be putting on displays. Visitors can try on authentic Roman armour, discover how injuries and illnesses were treated during the Roman period, and try their hand at being a soldier.

This well-preserved Roman soldier's helmet will be on display until October

LAST CHANCE TO SEE...

Discovering Ancient Egypt

FREE ENTRY Perth Museum and Art Gallery, until 3 May, *culturepk.org.uk/whatson*

This touring exhibition uncovers how the world of Ancient Egypt captivated the people of Scotland, and still does so today.

Feast & Fast: The Art of Food in Europe, 1500-1800

FREE ENTRY Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, until 26 April, *feast-and-fast.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk*

Explore our relationship with food throughout history, including tasty treats such as a Georgian confectioner's workshop and Jacobean sugar banquet.

ENGLISH HERITAGE X1, GETTY IMAGES X1, THE VINDOLANDA TRUST X1

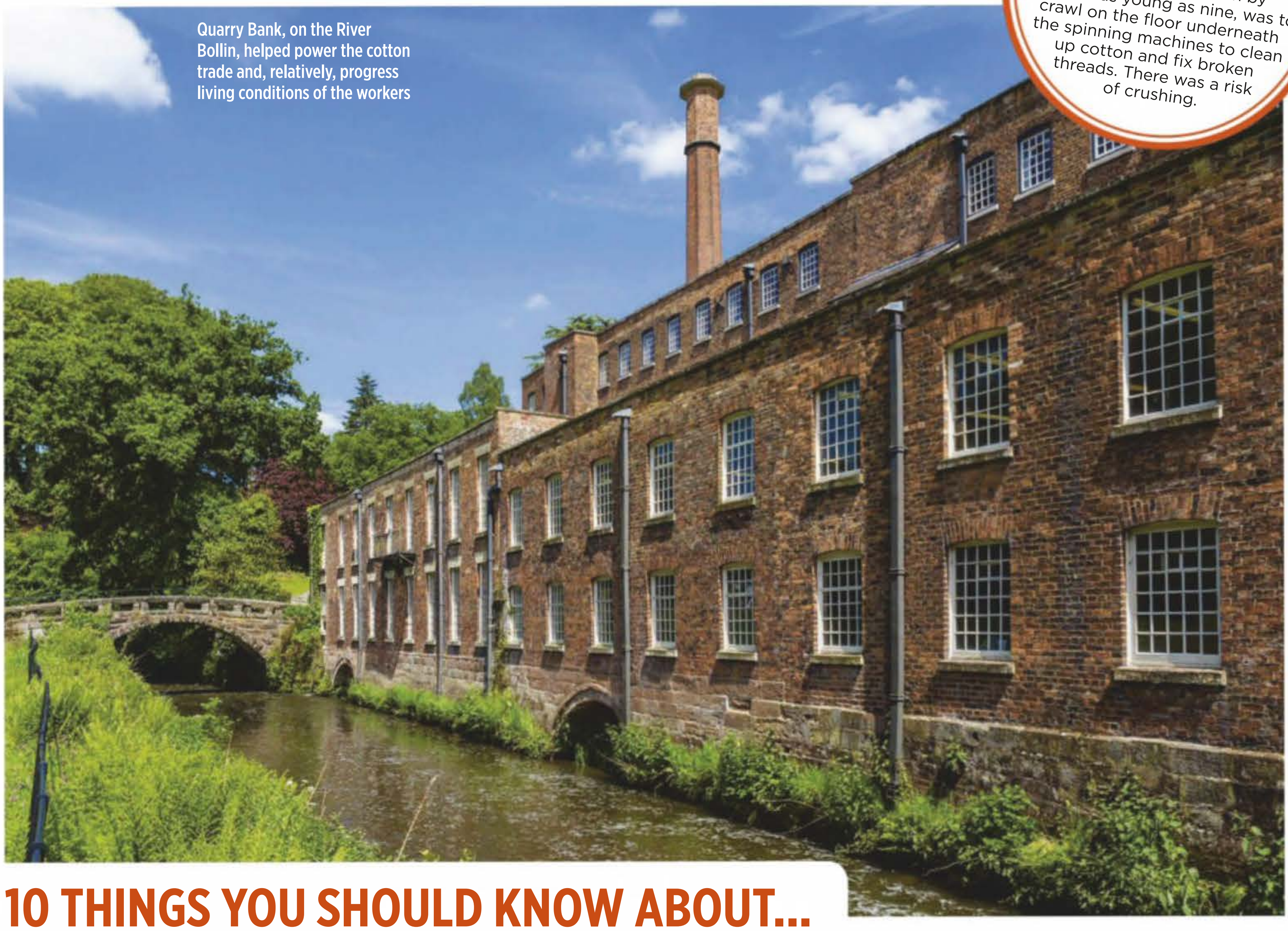
BRITAIN'S TREASURES

YOUR GUIDE TO EXPLORING THE HERITAGE SITES OF BRITAIN

DID YOU KNOW?

CHILD LABOUR FLAWS

One of the most dangerous jobs at the mill, undertaken by children as young as nine, was to crawl on the floor underneath the spinning machines to clean up cotton and fix broken threads. There was a risk of crushing.



Quarry Bank, on the River Bollin, helped power the cotton trade and, relatively, progress living conditions of the workers

ALAMY X7

10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...

QUARRY BANK CHESHIRE

1 Quarry Bank is one of the only Georgian water powered cotton mills still operating in the UK. The cotton trade was one of the driving forces of the Industrial Revolution and the growth of Britain's fortunes.

2 The mill's founder, Samuel Greg, was born in Belfast and joined his uncle's Manchester textile business in 1778, soon taking over and looking to build a mill. He chose the small village of Styal, alongside the River Bollin, for Quarry Bank, which opened in 1784.

3 As the mill prospered, Greg greatly expanded the village of Styal, adding a chapel, shop and school along with cottages for the families of the mill workers. While most mills at this time had about 80 employees, Quarry Bank had around 300.

4 Greg married Hannah Lightbody in 1789. She was an advocate of education for girls as well as boys and oversaw the welfare of the mill's children. At the time, the Gregs were seen as progressive employers.

5 Until 1847, many Quarry Bank workers were apprentices poor or orphaned children working for bed and board, who were bound to the mill until they were 18.

6 Despite the dangers of working in a mill, with accidents common, it was still seen as preferable to the workhouse.

7 By the 1830s, the morality of young children toiling away for long hours in dangerous conditions began to be questioned seriously. In 1833, children under nine were prohibited from working in the textile industry, and children under 18 had their hours reduced.

8 During the Plug Plot riots of 1842, so called as striking workers removed boiler plugs from their mill or factory engines, Quarry Bank closed as a precaution. The strike against wage cuts began in Staffordshire, but soon spread across the country.

9 By the 1860s, the Greg family had five other mills in Lancashire, creating the largest cotton business in Britain.

10 Quarry Bank inspired the 2013 television series *The Mill*. Many of the characters were based on real accounts of those who worked at the mill and the mill itself was used as a filming location.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR...

INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

Quarry Bank is close to Manchester Airport and easily accessible from the M56. Follow the brown heritage signs. Styal train station is also nearby.

OPENING TIMES AND PRICES

PAID ENTRY The mill is open seven days a week in the summer and five in winter. Check online for up-to-date opening times. Adults £20.25, children £10. Entry is free for National Trust members.

FIND OUT MORE

nationaltrust.org.uk/quarry-bank

KEY DATES

1779
Samuel Crompton invents the Spinning Mule, allowing for the large-scale manufacture of thread.

1784
Quarry Bank mill begins operating.

1785
The first recorded apprentices are taken on at the mill.

1792
The Apprentice House is built.

1820s
Cottages, a chapel, school and shop are built in Styal.

1833
Robert Greg, son of Samuel, gives evidence at a Royal Commission into child labour.

1847
The Ten Hour Act limits the daily working hours of women and children to 10 hours. The mill's apprentice system ends.

1901
The Factory and Workshop Act raises the minimum working age to 12.

1939
The mill becomes unprofitable and, along with the village and estate, is given to the National Trust.

1976
Quarry Bank opens to the public as a museum.

MILL MACHINERY

The mill still has authentic historical spinning machines, which are demonstrated daily so visitors can experience what it would have been like to work in such a noisy environment, where accidents such as the severing of fingers was common.

APPRENTICE HOUSE

As many as 90 child apprentices lived in this house while working at the mill for up to 69 hours a week. The children at Quarry Bank were treated better than those at other mills and workhouses, with education, food and healthcare provided for them.

QUARRY BANK HOUSE

This house was built for the Greg family close enough to the mill to keep an eye on business, but with all the comforts of a country home. The house has recently undergone a renovation project to restore it to its 19th-century glory.

WATER WHEEL

The mill has seen four water wheels in its long history. Visitors today can get an idea of the forces raging through one of the most powerful water wheels in Europe as the spinning machines are demonstrated.

WORKERS COTTAGE

These two up, two down houses had a parlour, kitchen, two bedrooms, a privy and a garden, and were rented to mill workers through wage deduction. In the cities, multiple families had to share an outside privy. Timed tours are available to view the cottages.

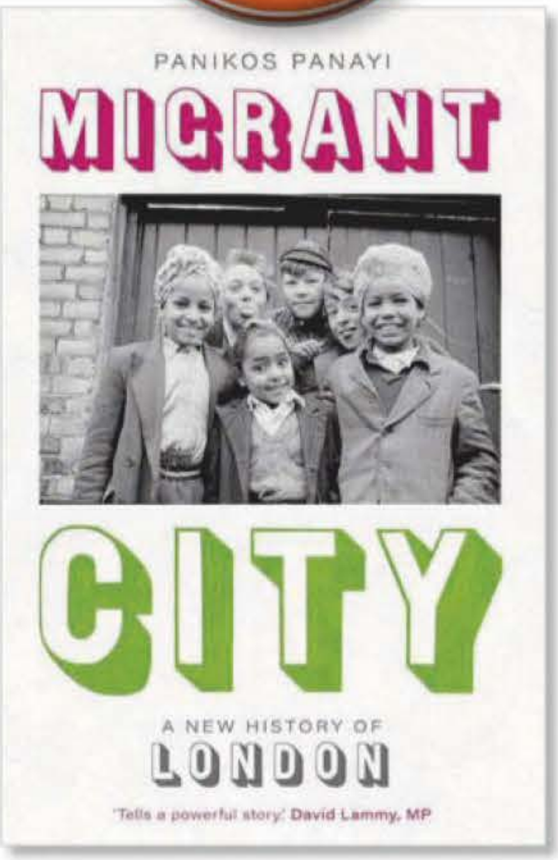
NORCLIFFE CHAPEL

Officially opened in 1823, the chapel was built by Samuel Greg for the spiritual needs of the mill workers. Originally a Baptist chapel, it became Unitarian as the Baptist beliefs of the village died out. The chapel is not run by the National Trust.

BOOKS & AUDIO BOOKS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS

BOOK OF THE MONTH



Migrant City: A New History of London

By Panikos Panayi
Yale University Press, £20, hardback, 384 pages

Migration makes for big, controversial headlines in 21st century Britain, but as this look at London through the prism of immigration proves, it has always been present. From the Romans to Windrush, Soho to the East End and beyond, this whistlestop tour of centuries of settlement mixes personal stories with a sweeping historical overview. There are some more unexpected characters among the cast of shopkeepers, bankers and radicals, too: who would have thought that footballers would reveal so much about London in recent decades, for instance?

> "London has been home to foreign settlers continuously for two millennia"

PANIKOS PANAYI explores how immigration has shaped the city of London over the centuries – from Roman invaders, to the Windrush generation

What is unique about London as a city that means its story needs to be told in this way?

London is unique because it was founded by migrants   the Romans   and has therefore been home to foreign settlers continuously for two millennia. It's also home to the majority of the population of most migrant groups in Britain and includes migrants on all parts of the social scale.

Can we still see the influence of the British empire in the histories and physical landscape of the city?

London was the heart of the British Empire and the heart of globalisation. Much of the city's physical landscape evolved because of its role as the most important commercial and political entity in the world, whether through the development of the government buildings in Westminster or the evolution of the docklands. At the same time, the capital houses places of worship from all of the world's major religions, often on a grandiose scale.

How did migrants contribute to London's revolutionary ideas?

London acted as home to some of the most radical thinkers of the past two centuries   from Victorian socialists to nationalists planning the downfall of the empire. Ironically, but reflecting the tolerant atmosphere of the 19th century metropolis, Karl Marx acted as the central figure in an ideology planning the overthrow of capitalism   the system at the city's very core. Similarly, some of those who led anti colonial movements formulated their ideas in the heart of empire, from Mahatma Ghandi to [Kenyan activist] Jomo Kenyatta.

Similarly, are there any individual stories that particularly struck you?

A section of my book uses footballers as a case study, because London's teams provide a clear example of migration linked to globalisation in recent decades. Before the late 20th century, for example, Arsenal made particular use of Irishmen, epitomised by the story of Liam Brady, who moved to London in his teens and initially stayed with a type of foster family.

London has also produced most of the British black footballers, whether or not they play for the capital's clubs. Ian Wright provides a classic example of somebody from a Jamaican background in south London who became a sporting superstar. More recently, players have come from Europe or beyond: the Brazilian David Luiz, for example, or Belgian Eden Hazard.

COLLABORATION
NEGOTIATION
CONFRONTATION

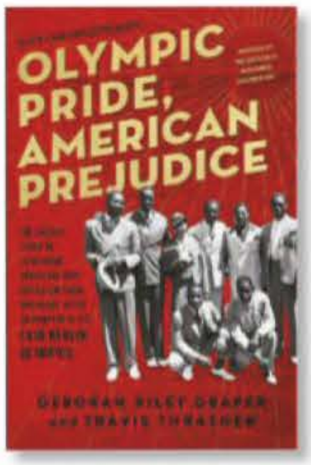
Strikers at Grunwick Film Processing Laboratories – led by immigrant worker Mrs Jayaben Desai (*centre*) – demand management recognition of trade unions, in 1977

Why is this history particularly important now, in 2020?

It seems tempting to say that this story feels important now because of the recent backlash against immigration. In reality, this type of xenophobia has always existed in Britain and London. Yet the diversity of the capital   more than 50 per cent of its population has migrant origins   has meant that the type of racism that has sometimes characterised much of the rest of the country appears to have lessened in the metropolis, at least in everyday interaction.

GETTY IMAGES X1

SIX MORE BOOKS TO READ


OLYMPIC PRIDE, AMERICAN PREJUDICE
DEBORAH RILEY DRAPER and TRAVIS THRASHER

Olympic Pride, American Prejudice

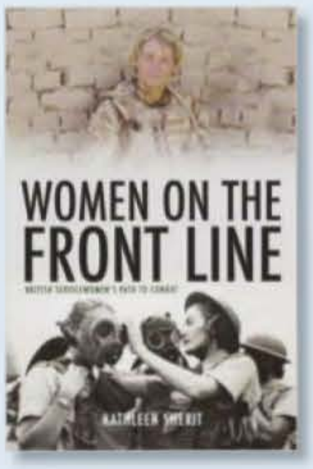
By Deborah Riley Draper and Travis Thrasher
Simon & Schuster, £20, hardback, 400 pages

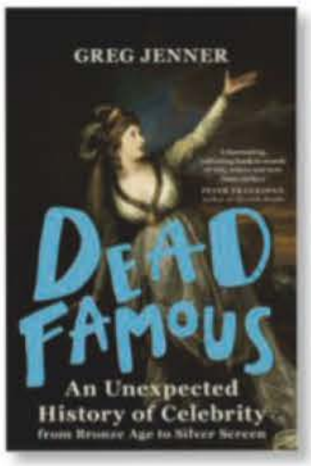
Jesse Owens wasn't the only African American athlete to travel from the US to take part in the 1936 Summer Olympics, hosted by Germany in the throes of Nazism. This account explores the lives of the 17 other such competitors: men and women who had to decide whether or not to represent a country that regarded them as second class citizens, in a tournament that Hitler hoped would prove his theories of 'racial superiority'. Drawing on extensive research and new interviews, this is stirring stuff.

Women on the Front Line: British Servicewomen's Path to Combat

By Kathleen Sherit
Amberley, £20, hardback, 288 pages

As British armed forces struggled to contend with both the changing demands of warfare and shifting social attitudes throughout the 20th century, women often found themselves at the heart of the story if not the front line. This overview of their role in combat, from the Second World War onwards, mixes political and military history to assess why change was so slow in coming.

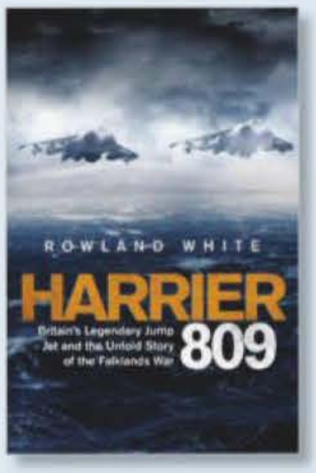

WOMEN ON THE FRONT LINE
KATHLEEN SHERIT


GREG JENNER
DEAD FAMOUS
An Unexpected History of Celebrity
from Bronze Age to Silver Screen

Dead Famous: An Unexpected History of Celebrity from the Bronze Age to the Silver Screen

By Greg Jenner
Weidenfeld and Nicholson, £18.99, hardback, 400 pages

Charismatic, famous, their dramatic personal lives discussed endlessly: we are all familiar with such celebrities. Indeed, we may often think of them as a modern phenomena. Think again, suggests Greg Jenner, as he casts his eye back to the Roman emperors, medieval saints and royal mistresses he argues were just as deserving of the label. This is a lively look at history's great and gawped at and how they reshaped the world around them.


ROWLAND WHITE
HARRIER 809
Britain's Legendary Jump Jet and the Untold Story of the Falklands War

Harrier 809: Britain's Legendary Jump Jet and the Untold Story of the Falklands War

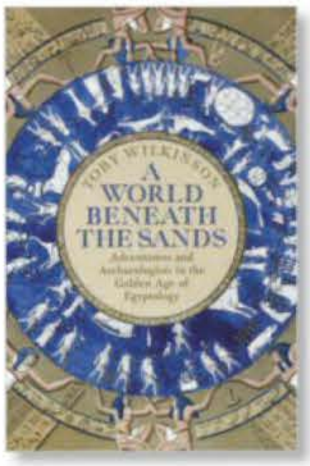
By Rowland White
Bantam Press, £20, hardback, 320 pages

This propulsive book guides readers through the turmoil that followed Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands in April 1982. Its leading actors are the 809 Naval Air Squadron, hastily assembled and trained, and a fleet of Sea Harrier jet fighters, housed on a converted container ship. As much about man as it is machine, this is a fittingly dramatic account of a remarkable eight weeks.

A World Beneath the Sands: Adventures and Archaeologists in the Golden Age of Egyptology

By Toby Wilkinson
Picador, £25, hardback, 512 pages

When was the 'golden age' of Egyptology? For Toby Wilkinson, it's the period between the 1820s and 1920s when adventurous scholars (and scholarly adventurers) set out to unlock the ancient civilisation's many secrets. Some, such as Tut tomb discoverer Howard Carter, may be familiar; others, including English translator and author Lucie Duff-Gordon, likely less so.


TOBY WILKINSON
A WORLD BENEATH THE SANDS

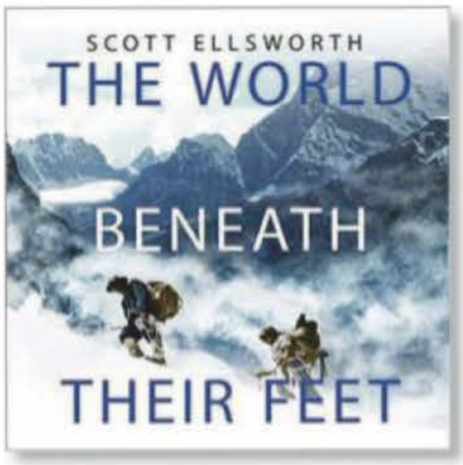
COFFEELAND
AUGUSTINE SEDGEWICK

Coffeeland: A History

By Augustine Sedgewick
Allen Lane, £25, hardback, 448 pages

As the caffeine consumption powering these pages indicates, coffee is now central to much of how the West works and socialises. Yet its rise to ubiquity is studded with dark tales of inequality and exploitation, with entire landscapes and ways of life reshaped to provide global access to what this book's author suggests is the "world's most popular drug". Ranging from the slums of Manchester to the hills of El Salvador, this is the extraordinarily epic story behind the steaming mug in your local cafe.

OUR PICK OF AUDIO BOOKS



The World Beneath Their Feet

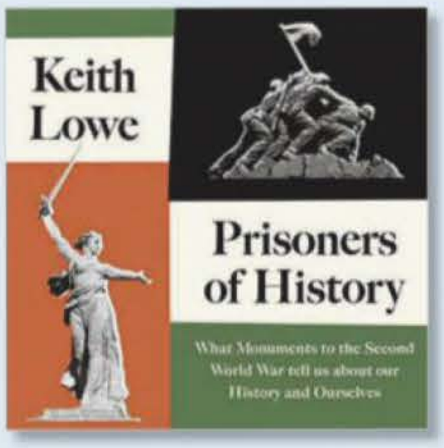
By Scott Ellsworth
Hodder & Stoughton, £21.99, narrated by Scott Ellsworth, 13 hours 33 minutes

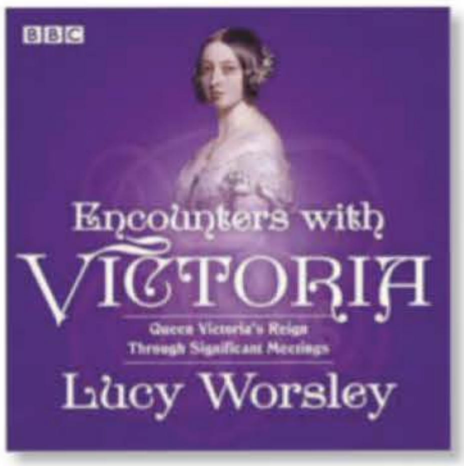
From 1931 onward, waves of climbers, athletes, scientists and eccentrics set out to conquer the Himalayas – the foreboding mountain range that features many of the world's tallest peaks. Its very highest, Everest, was successfully ascended by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953, but what of the other stories? This retelling of those, often fatal, attempts explores what drove such missions. Dynamically read by its author, Scott Ellsworth, this is a vibrant glimpse into a period of wild adventure.

Prisoners of History: What Monuments to the Second World War Tell Us About Ourselves

By Keith Lowe
William Collins, £10.49, narrated by Keith Lowe, 7 hours 40 minutes

World War II ended 75 years ago, but its legacy is still with us: in how nations view themselves and others, as well as in physical landscapes. Here, Keith Lowe explores what war memorials in locations such as London, Berlin, Moscow and Hiroshima tell us about the conflict and its place in the 21st century.


Keith Lowe
Prisoners of History
What Monuments to the Second World War tell us about our History and Ourselves



Encounters with Victoria: Queen Victoria's Reign Through Significant Meetings

By Lucy Worsley
BBC Audio, £22.74, narrated by Lucy Worsley, 2 hours 14 mins

Historian and broadcaster Lucy Worsley brings her inimitable style to this ten-part look at the relationships that shaped the life and reign of Queen Victoria. Adapted from a BBC radio series, each episode focuses on a point in time in which a particular person – such as Lord Melbourne – came to the fore. Experts including AN Wilson, Mark Bostridge and Helen Rappaport offer their insights along the way.

History**Extra Podcast**

Each month we bring you three of our favourite interviews from the HistoryExtra podcast archives...

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THIS MONTH... three podcasts on the Romans

People and politics

historyextra.com/period/roman/ancient-rome-special/

This special, nearly hour-long episode from 2015 features two major historical names offering very different takes on ancient Rome. In the first part, classicist and broadcaster Mary Beard explores the history of the city and its people, from their daily lives to their views of other cultures. And novelist Robert Harris guides us through researching Cicero – the first-century BC statesman who met a sticky end.

Roman slavery

historyextra.com/period/first-world-war/roman-slavery-and-the-man-who-started-the-first-world-war/

"We often tend to think of the Romans as being just like us wearing togas, but if we went back to the ancient world we would be shocked at the level of daily brutality," cautions Jerry Toner in this exploration of ancient slavery, recorded in 2014. And it wasn't just brutal but prevalent: as many as 40 per cent of Rome's population were enslaved. An accessible overview of a sobering subject.

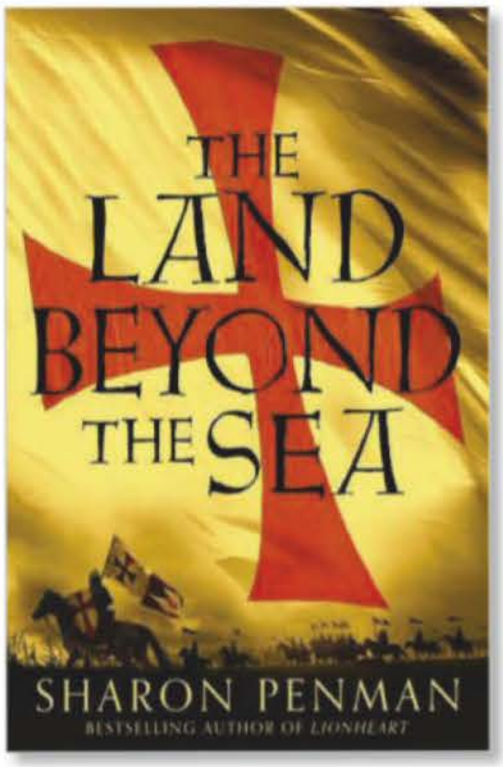
Rotten Romans

historyextra.com/period/roman/making-jokes-about-romans-horrible-histories-greg-jenner-podcast/

When he's not writing books (as reviewed on the previous page), public historian Greg Jenner serves as historical consultant for the phenomenally popular *Horrible Histories*. Here, talking shortly after the release of its 2019 big-screen debut, ***Rotten Romans***, Jenner explores how to adapt characters from the ancient world for audiences in the 21st century.

BBC/ANDREW HAYES-WATKINS X1, FRAN MONKS X1

HISTORICAL FICTION....



The Land Beyond the Sea

Sharon Penman
5 March 2020, Pan Macmillan, £14.99, hardback

In 1174, the Kingdom of Jerusalem created by the blood and turmoil of the First Crusade is still a fledgling realm. After the unexpected death of his father, Baldwin IV is thrust onto the throne. The young ruler is trying to protect his people while at the same time coping with the horrific disease leprosy, which has had a hold of him for many years. Leader of the Saracens, Saladin, wants to seek revenge for the massacre during the 1099 capture of Jerusalem, so Baldwin must be prepared for war.

•••• Excerpt ••••

In which Baldwin's tutor, William of Tyre, helps the young king come to terms with the devastating news that he may have contracted leprosy.

"I know what men say of lepers. That they are morally unclean. That leprosy is the disease of the damned, punishment for their sins." Baldwin's voice wavered, but then he broke William's heart by mustering up a small smile. "If it is indeed leprosy, I have not had a chance to commit any sins great enough to deserve this, William."

That was too much for William. Reaching out, he put his arm around Baldwin's shoulders. The boy stiffened, and then relaxed against him. He could see the tear tracks on Baldwin's cheek now, and if the light had been better, he thought he might even see traces of those golden whiskers that Baldwin ostentatiously shaved off once a week. Fourteen was a challenging age for any youngster, poised between the borders of childhood and manhood. How could the Almighty expect Baldwin to bear the burdens both of kingship and leprosy?

Q&A
Sharon Penman

Originally a lawyer, American novelist Sharon Penman had to entirely rewrite her first novel, *The Sunne in Splendour*, after the manuscript was stolen. She has lived in both England and Wales but currently resides in New Jersey. *The Land Beyond the Sea* is her 14th historical novel.

How do you research the topics for your books?
I always try to visit the places I write about. For my novel *Falls the Shadow* (1988) I set a battle on the Llyn Peninsula. I'd been delighted to spot a river on the maps, as I'm always looking for new ways to describe combat and I planned to have some soldiers swept away by the river. When I arrived at the likely battle site, I discovered that the river was so shallow that a snake couldn't have drowned in it. Then I noticed the "Beware of Quicksand" signs. It's likely that the area would have been marshy in the Middle Ages, too. And so the novel's protagonist, 16-year-old Davydd, and his assailant blunder into the quagmire, quickly losing interest in attacking each other, wanting only to get back onto firmer ground.

When I'm not wandering around battlefields or castle ruins, I'm reading all I can about the period I'm writing about. My favourite sources are the contemporary chronicles – they provide a fascinating glimpse into the medieval mind, which is both familiar and foreign to us.

What is it that interests you about medieval Britain?
Not many of us can claim our lives were changed by a long-dead medieval king, but that happened to me. I became intrigued with Richard III, for the more I read about him, the more convinced I became that he'd been maligned, first by Henry Tudor, and then by history. Needing an outlet for my indignation, I decided to write a novel about him.

I eventually spent 12 years in 15th-century England with Richard and the Yorkists. When *The Sunne in Splendour* was published, in 1982, I was thrilled that I could continue to write for a living. Of my 14 novels, only *The Land Beyond the Sea* has no scenes set in England, Wales, or France, but since young Baldwin is a cousin of the English king, Henry II casts a long shadow over the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

If you could write about any other historical period, what would it be and why?
I considered writing a novel about Ancient Rome in the twilight of the Republic. I eventually abandoned the idea because I feared the research would be too time-consuming. This was also why I never pursued another dream of mine – writing a novel about the American Revolution. I'd love to delve into the torn loyalties of the American colonists, many of whom remained devoted to their motherland, England.

LETTERS

Reader Stephen Hollowell receives medical attention during riots at Broadwater Farm Estate in 1985

ON THE FRONTLINE

As a former police officer with London's Metropolitan Police, I would like to correct the statement made in your January 2020 issue, which declared that the Poll Tax riot of 31 March 1990 was "the worst riot the City had seen in a century" (*Snapshots, Trouble on the Streets*).

On 6 October 1985, I was a sergeant in charge of a dozen police officers who had been called on to attend a riot at the Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham. On our arrival, we and the other officers on the scene were pounded with petrol bombs, cement blocks, metal objects and anything else that the rioters could lay their hands on.

As the night wore on, every one of my officers was injured as my unit and others attempted to contain the rioters to the estate and prevent the violence from spreading.

Some time around 9.30pm, I heard a call for urgent assistance being screamed over the radio: the rioting had become too intense for those police officers not trained in riot control and they had been forced to withdraw, chased by rioters. One officer, PC Blakelock, tripped, fell, and was surrounded by a mob armed with machetes, knives and other weapons. He was brutally killed.

I had been hit multiple times with cement blocks and my hand the one holding my riot shield was broken. I was pulled out and taken to hospital. The image above was printed in the *Sun* newspaper the following day it shows me being attended to by paramedics.

With more than 250 police officers injured in the riot and PC Keith Blakelock murdered, it is this terrible event that should be labelled the worst riot London has ever seen.

Stephen Hollowell, by email

Editor replies: Thank you for your letter, Stephen. This riot was borne out of a period of increased tensions between police and residents at Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham, following the death of West Indian resident Cynthia Jarrett during a police raid on 5 October 1985 a week after riots in Brixton, south London, which were triggered by the accidental police shooting of Cherry Groce.

No one has yet been charged with PC Blakelock's murder; a re investigation is ongoing.

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 77 are:

K Willing, East London
S Wells, Lincolnshire
J Sclanders, Lincolnshire

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of the *Great Pyramid Manual*, published by Haynes.

MEDIEVAL MEDICINE

Reading of the horrors of plague, pox and pestilence (*Beating the Black Death, March 2020*), which ravaged much of Europe for many centuries, it's amazing that anybody survived. With no antibiotics, poor diet, terrible sanitation and, most unhelpful of all, a ridiculous (albeit largely naive and well intended) belief that any disease could be cured by a strict adherence to religion, no wonder it spread so far and so quickly.

With coronavirus on the brink of becoming a pandemic, it's a good thing for humankind today that God is no longer seen by the vast majority including, as before, doctors as still being more curative than any or all of the proven solutions for illness now offered by medicine, science, nutrition and hygiene, whether vastly improved or not.

Stefan Badham, Hampshire

CORRECTIONS

- In *Snapshots, March 2020*, we incorrectly stated that the RAC motor rally finished in Kent rather than Sussex. Thanks to reader Barrie Vinten for pointing this out.
- In the map that appeared in our Jacobites feature (*February 2020*), we placed the Battle of Aughrim in south east Ireland. The battle actually took place in the west of Ireland, in County Galway. Thanks to reader Freddy Heggarty for getting in touch.

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NEXT ISSUE

••• ON SALE 16 APRIL •••

VICTORY IN EUROPE: 8 MAY 1945

Seventy-five years after Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender, we explore the week the war finally ended in Europe… and what happened next

PLUS...

VICTORIAN SUPER WALKERS TEN BUILDINGS THAT ROSE FROM THE ASHES **WHAT IF ALEXANDER THE GREAT HAD LIVED LONGER?** PIONEERING NATURALIST MARIA SIBYLLA MERIAN **THE MYSTERY OF THE MEDIEVAL VOYNICH MANUSCRIPT** AND MUCH MORE...

SHUTTERSTOCK

CROSSWORD & PUZZLES

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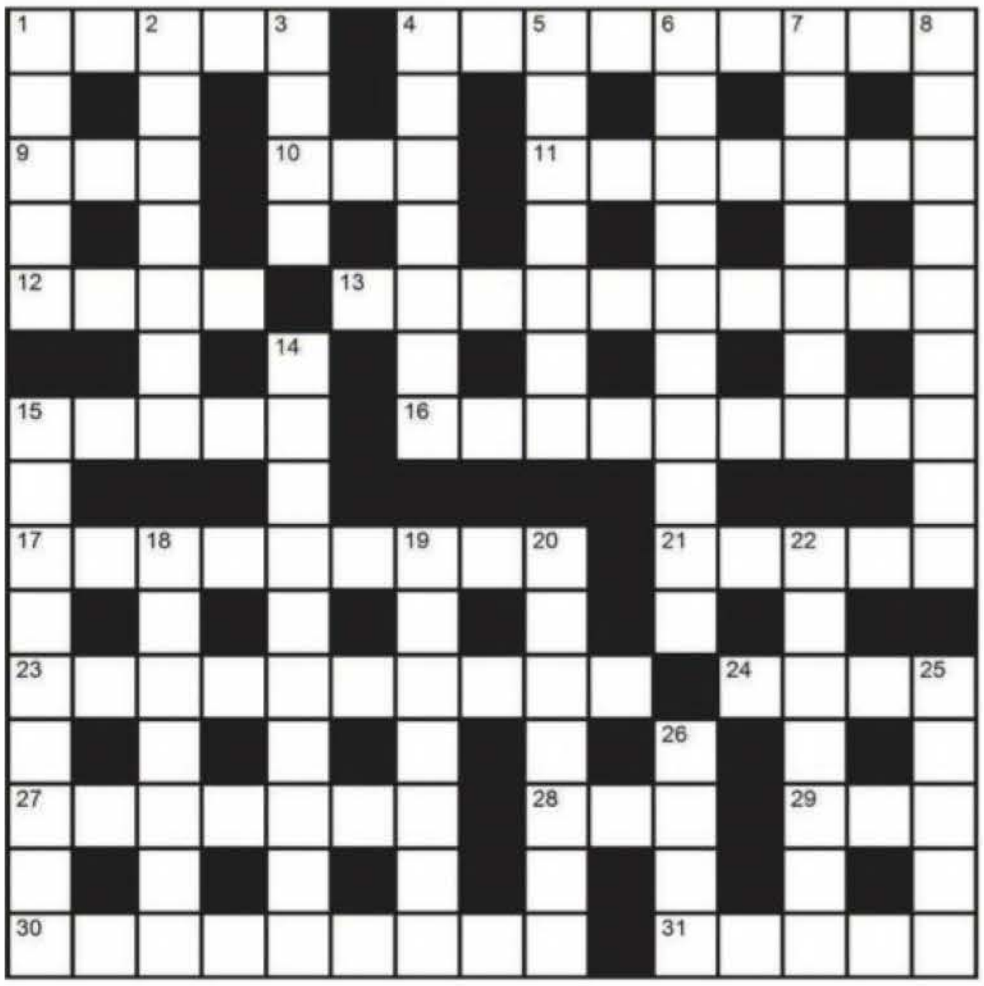
CROSSWORD No. 80

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

ACROSS

1 Dame Nellie ___ (1861–1931), Australian soprano (5)
4 Apparatus associated with Charles Blondin (1824–97) (9)
9 Uncle ___, personification of the USA (3)
10/11/31 US spy series broadcast from 1964 to 1968 (3,3,4,5)
12 Secular; a person not of the clergy (4)
13 Stepney-born singer and broadcaster (b.1932) (3,7)
15 Uncle ___, character created by Joel Chandler Harris (5)
16 Pseudonym of Anne Brontë (1820–49) (5,4)
17 Fallout, consequences; originally, a second mowing (9)
21 Uncle ___, 1898 play by Anton Chekhov (5)
23 Member of the Sturmarbteilung (10)
24 '__, poor Yorick!' – *Hamlet*, Act 5, Scene 1 (4)
27 Operative aboard a coal-powered ship (7)
28 Uncle ___, satirical name for Josef Stalin (1878–1953) (3)
29 Uncle ___, title character of an 1852 novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe (3)
30 1969 Italian film by Federico Fellini (9)
31 See last word of 10/11 across



Set by Richard Smyth

DOWN

1 City of Iraq, close to Nineveh (5)
2 Tibetan Buddhism (7)
3 Informal name for the fifth book of the New Testament (4)
4 Tory politician May or playwright Ikoko, perhaps (7)
5 ___ dance, artform that originated in the gold mines of South Africa (7)
6 Contemptuous term for the Canadian fleet established in 1910 (3,3,4)
7 City of north-west Spain, destroyed by the Moors in AD 716 (7)
8 Roma dancer in the 1831 novel *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* (9)
14 Caroline Herschel, Edwin Hubble or Jocelyn Bell-Burnell, for example (10)
15 Seville football team founded in 1907 (4,5)
18 Follower of the theologian Thomas Aquinas (1225–74) (7)
19 Language of Ethiopia (7)
20 Term used by Gandhi for Indian ethnic groups now known as Dalits (7)
22 Word describing the civilisations of the Nile valley (7)
25 Battle of the ___, First World War conflict of 1916 (5)
26 Country ruled by Alberto Fujimori from 1990 to 2000 (4)

CHANCE TO WIN

INSTANT HISTORY

BOOK WORTH £14.99 FOR THREE WINNERS

Instant History
by Sandra Lawrence
(Carlton Books Ltd, 2019)

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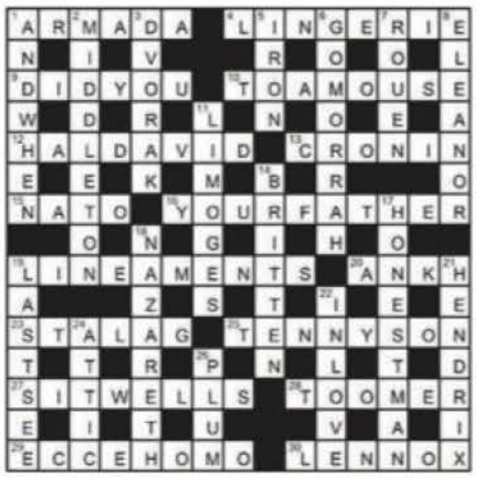

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D	I	D	Y	O	U	■	T	O	A	M	O	U	S	E
W	■	D	■	R	■	L	■	N	■	O	■	E	■	A
H	A	L	D	A	V	I	D	■	C	R	O	N	I	N
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TRUE OR FALSE

Have you been paying attention? The answers to the following statements can all be found in this issue of *BBC History Revealed*...

A Some 3.6 million people visited Disneyland in its first year of opening

B Rotational therapy, once in use at Bethlem Hospital, was invented by Charles Darwin

C In 1994, the *Today* newspaper announced the existence of a flying rabbit

D The 1536 Pilgrimage of Grace began in Norfolk

E Mary MacKillop was Austria's first saint, as recognised by the Catholic Church

ANSWERS BELOW

HISTORY WORD SEARCH

Can you find the names of ten famous Elizabethans?

Elizabethans

N	O	C	E	Y	A	E	I	Y	F	B	I	Y	Y	E	L	D	U	D
M	Q	I	U	R	C	G	T	H	G	I	E	L	A	R	R	I	E	A
E	R	A	E	P	S	E	K	A	H	S	M	E	G	V	R	C	E	I
V	K	I	E	R	D	O	E	T	F	C	A	R	H	R	D	D	I	P
L	C	H	S	M	D	O	B	T	C	B	R	D	F	M	A	B	T	P
E	I	A	L	A	U	B	U	M	W	F	Y	D	A	S	T	S	O	A
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T	D	U	T	E	N	B	B	J	E	N	U	A	E	O	I	B	H	M
I	R	S	E	L	I	E	N	Q	E	W	E	H	T	B	Y	Y	G	A
C	A	L	B	M	S	Y	T	G	H	E	E	G	B	U	T	U	V	K
E	H	E	A	V	S	E	R	E	R	I	N	N	V	D	C	C	C	H
K	F	C	Z	W	Y	O	D	A	U	T	O	I	C	T	T	E	P	C
N	O	J	I	M	T	C	R	T	T	O	F	S	I	S	D	Y	Y	O
O	S	I	L	E	L	R	A	L	D	O	S	L	Q	T	A	D	R	Y
L	S	U	E	M	U	I	K	O	O	G	C	A	P	E	S	D	U	I
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Y	B	C	D	T	M	O	F	S	H	T	T	X	Q	E	Z	I	U	E
S	F	E	P	I	K	T	N	L	X	I	S	T	T	S	I	E	U	D

BESS OF HARDWICK
LETTICE KNOLLYS
ELIZABETH
MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS
DUDLEY
DEE
RALEIGH
SHAKESPEARE
DRAKE
WALSINGHAM

ANAGRAM

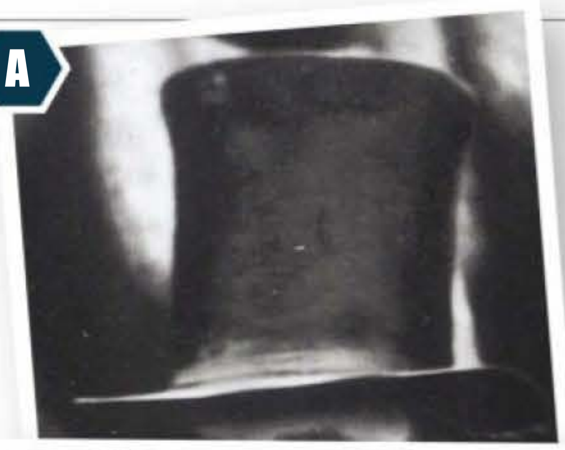
Ancient symbol of Scottish sovereignty

confess no toe

PICTURE ROUND

Three well-known Victorians make up this face. Who are they?

A



B

C

ANSWERS

True or False: A) True (see p37) **B)** False (see p57) **C)** True (see p16) **D)** False (see p22) **E)** False (see p20)

Anagram: Stone of Scone

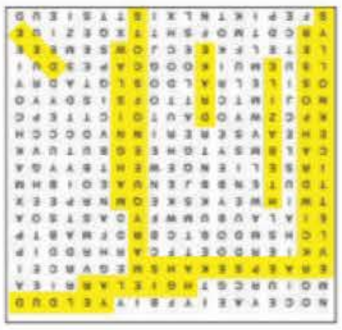
Picture Round:

A) Isambard Kingdom Brunel

B) Queen Victoria

C) Charles Darwin

History Word Search:



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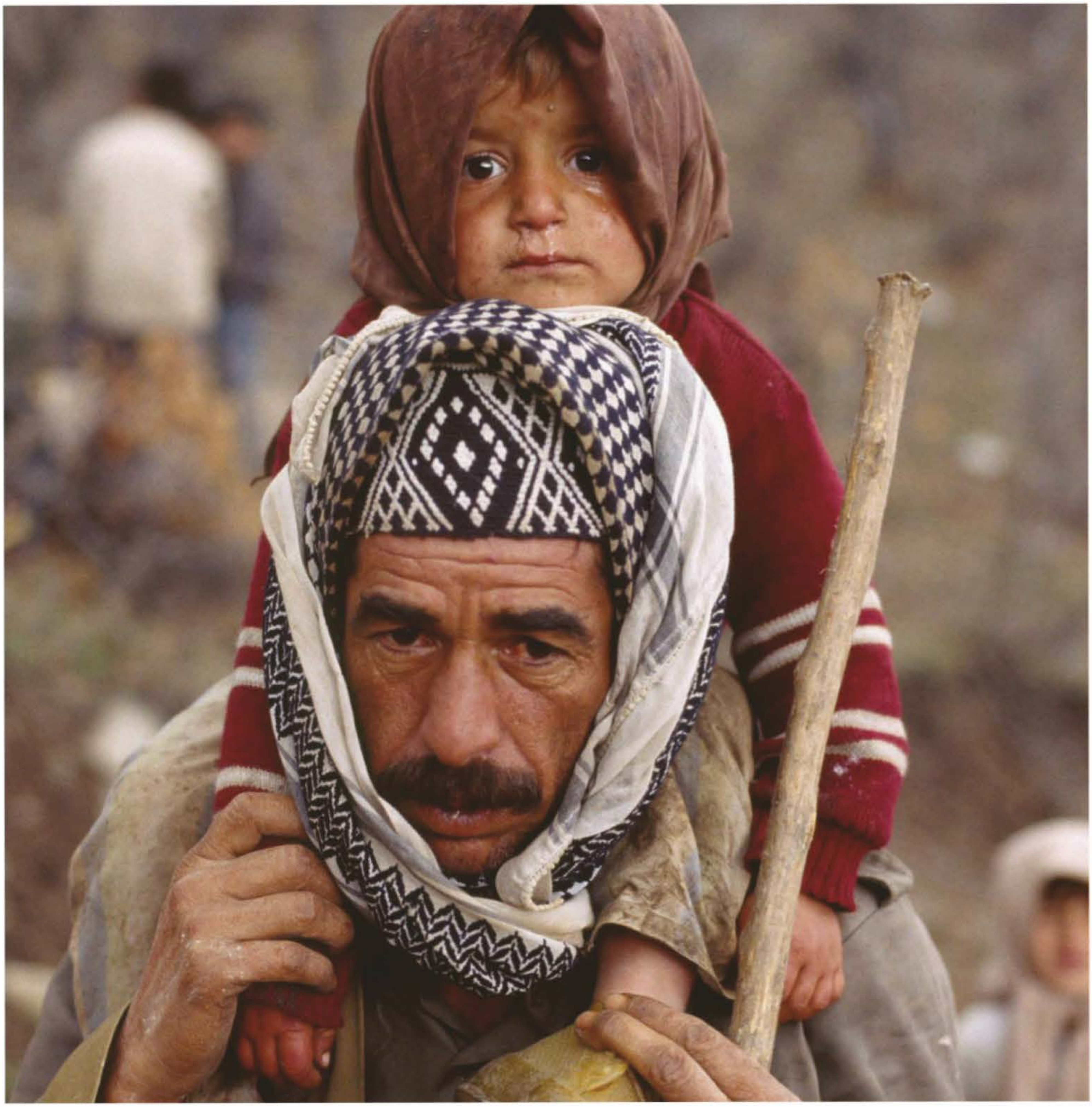

PATRICK ROBERT/SYGMA/GETTY IMAGES

REFUGEES FLEE IRAQ 1991

After the failed Kurdish uprising that followed the Gulf War (1990-91), almost the entire Kurdish population of Iraq (along with other Iraqi nationals) fled to Turkey and Iran in a desperate bid to escape retaliation by the forces of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Thousands perished on the treacherous journey through the mountains, many from hunger or exposure to the elements. It's believed that more than 1.8 million refugees fled Iraq between March and May 1991, with an estimated 500 deaths on the Turkish border each day from cold, hunger and disease.

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